THE OXFORD University Press

1468–1921

BOOKS - OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

COMMONWEALTH MYCOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
20 JAN 1960

THE

OXFORD

University Press

INITIAL FROM THE GREAT CHARTER OF THE UNIVERSITY, 1635/6

Granted by Charles I to confirm and settle printing privileges which had been first granted in 1632. See p. 112

SOME ACCOUNT

OF THE

OXFORD

University Press

1468–1921

OXFORD

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

MCMXXII

Oxford University Press

London Edinburgh Glasgow Copenhagen

New York Toronto Melbourne Cape Town

Bombay Calcutta Madras Shanghai

Humphrey Milford Publisher to the UNIVERSITY

THE AUTHOR *desires to expreſs his grateful thanks to all those members of the Staffs of the Preſs and its Branches who have helped him in the compilation of this sketch, or have contributed to its typographical or pictorial embellishment; and especially to* Mr. FALCONER MADAN, *from whose* Brief Account of the University Press at Oxford (1908) *the hiſtorical details here mentioned are derived.*

OXFORD, *December* 1921.

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I

HISTORICAL SKETCH

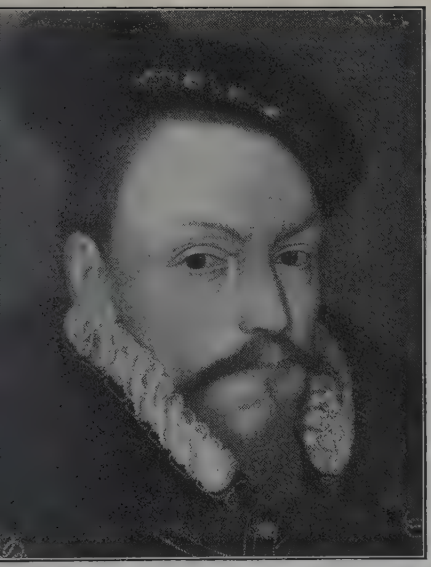
THE first book printed at Oxford is the very rare Commentary on the Apostles' Creed attributed to St. Jerome, the colophon of which is dated 17 December, Anno domini Mcccclxviij. It is improbable that a book was printed at Oxford so early as 1468; and the bibliographers are on various grounds agreed that an x has been omitted. If so, Oxford must be content to date the beginning of its Press from the year 1478; while Westminster, its only English precursor, produced its first book from Caxton's press in 1477.

The first printer was Theodoric Rood, who came to England from Cologne, and looked after the Press until about 1485; soon after which date the first Press came to an end. The second Press lasted from 1517 until 1520,

and was near Merton College. Some twenty-three books are known to have issued from these Presses; they are for the most part classical or theological works in Latin. There is no doubt that this early Press was really the University Press; for many of the books have the imprint *in Alma Universitate Oxoniae* or the like, some bear the University Arms, and some are issued with the express privilege of the Chancellor of the University.

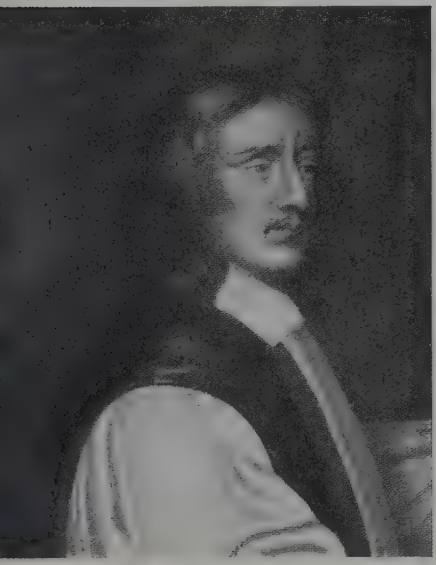
Device used on the back of the title of *Sphæra Civitatis* Oxford 1588

After 1520 there is a gap in the history, which begins again in 1585. The Chancellor of that time was Queen Elizabeth's favourite, the Earl of Leicester, who in the first issue of the new Press is celebrated as its founder. Convocation in 1584 had appointed a committee *De Libris imprimendis*, and in 1586 the University lent £100 to an Oxford bookseller, Joseph Barnes, to carry on a press. In the next year an ordinance of the Star Chamber allowed one press at Oxford, and one apprentice in addition to the master printer. Barnes managed the Press until 1617, and printed many books now prized by collectors, among them the first book printed at Oxford in Greek (the Chrysostom of 1586), the first book with Hebrew type (1596), Richard de Bury's *Philobiblon*, and Captain John Smith's *Map of Virginia*.



Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester

Archbishop Laud



Dr. John Fell

Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon

FOUR FOUNDERS OF THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

THE INTERIOR OF THE OLD CONGREGATION HOUSE

The first printing-house owned by the University; used for storing Oriental type and printing-furniture, 1652.

The first notable promoter of the Oxford Press was Archbishop Laud, whose statutes contemplate the appointment of an *Architypographus*, and who secured for the

(1) *Numb.* 1.

The Oxford Gazette.

Published by Authority.

Oxon. Nov. 7.

THis day the Reverend Dr. *Walter Blandford*, Warden of *Wadham Colledge* in this University, was elected Ld. Bishop of this See, vacant by the death of Dr. *Paul*, late Bishop here.

Oxon. Nov. 13. This Day His Majesty in Councel according to the usual custom, having the Roll of Sheriffs presented to him, pricked those Persons following to be Sheriffs for the succeeding Year, in their respective Counties of *England* and *Wales*.

Berks.	Basil Brent, *Esquire.*
Bedford.	Thos Snagge. *Esq.*
Buckingham.	Symon Bennet, *Esq.*
Cumberland.	Sir William Dalston, *Baronet.*
Chester.	Sir John Arderne, *Knight.*
Cambridge.	Sir Tho: Willis, *Kt. and Baronet.*
Cornwal.	Tho: Dorrel, *Esq.*
Devon.	John Kelland, *Esq.*
Dorset.	Roger Clavel, *Esq.*
Derby.	Sir Samuel Sleigh, *Knight.*
Yorkshire.	Sir Francis Cobb, *Knight.*
Essex.	Sir Heneage Fetherston, *Baronet.*
Glocester.	Sir Richard Cox, *Baronet.*
Hertford.	Sir Jonathan Keat, *Baronet.*
Hereford.	Tho: Rod, *Esq.*
Kent.	Sir Humphry Miller, *Baronet.*
Lancaster	William Spencer, *Esq.*

fieur *de Canillac* having been put to death by the Commissioners of the *Grands Iours*: It seems they had laid some new Taxes or Impositions on those parts: There are Troups marching against them, and it is thought they will soon be reduced. My Lord *Aubigny* Lord *Almoner* to her Majesty, having layen sick some time here of an Hydropsie attended with a Flux, is this week dead.

Paris Novemb: 18. The *Mareschal de Turenne* arrived here on Sunday last from the Frontiers, whence he brings account that the Succors intended against the Prince of *Munster* had passed in small parties, and that they had been received at *Maestricht* by *Monsieur Bevering* in the name of the States General.

Guernzy, Octob. 30. Yesterday came into our Road the *Unity* Frigot, Captain *Trafford* Commander, who brought in a Prize Captain *John Gilson* of *Flushing*, being a Privateer of 7 Guns, and 45. Men.

Chattham Nov: 4. Captain *Elliot* Commander of the *Saphire* has taken 3 Busses, two of them out of 50 at the *Dogger-sands*, under the Protection of four of their Men of War. In his passage home, tis said, he saw several tops of Ships, Masts, &c. which seemed to be the effects of some Wreck, which God be thanked we doe not heare to have been any of the *English* Ships.

Oxon: Novemb: 12. Not knowing what accompt the Publick has hitherto received of the Progress of the Prince of *Munster's* Armes, we have thought it not improper without further repetition, to give an account of such places as be at present stands possest of in the Ene-

Upper part of the first page of the Oxford (now London) Gazette, 1665. The oldest newspaper still existing in England

University in 1632 Letters Patent authorizing three printers (each with two presses and two apprentices), and in 1636 a Royal Charter entitling the University to print 'all manner of books'. The privilege of printing the Bible was not exercised at this date; but in 1636

Used in Burley on Aristotle, printed at Oxford 1517

Used in 1585-93, 1597-1600, & at intervals till 1635

Used in 1627-8, 1630-33, 1635-7, and 1640

Used at intervals from 1592-1638

Used in 1628, and at intervals till 1637

Used in 1630-4, 1636-8, & 1640

From the University Specimen, 1786

OXFORD UNIVERSITY ARMS

Some ancient examples used by the Oxford University Press

These Arms were first used in 1640

Almanacks were produced, and this seems to have alarmed the Stationers' Company, who then enjoyed a virtual monopoly of Bibles, Grammars, and Almanacks; for we find that in 1637 the University surrendered the privilege to the Stationers for an annual payment of £200, twice the amount of Joseph Barnes's working capital. The most famous books belonging to what may be called

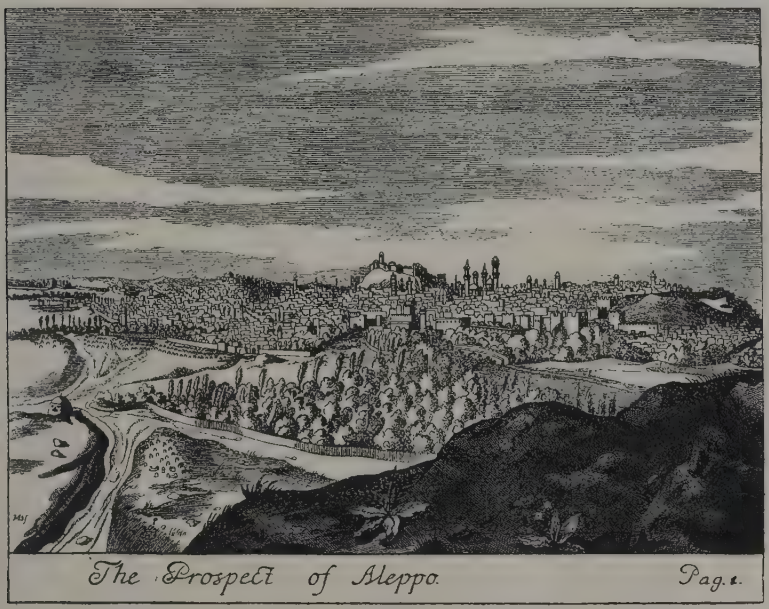
From *The History of Lapland* by John Shefferus, 1674, the first anthropological book published by the Press

the Laudian period were five editions of Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy* and one of Bacon's *Advancement of Learning* in English.

The work of the Press during the Civil War is of interest to historians and bibliographers on account of the great number of Royalist Pamphlets and Proclamations issued while the Court of Charles I was at Oxford; a number swollen in appearance by those printed in London with counterfeit Oxford imprints. But this period is not important in the history of the Learned

Press; and after 1649 it suffered a partial eclipse which did not pass until the Restoration.

The history of the Press in the latter part of the seventeenth century will always be connected with the



From W. Maundrell's *Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem*, Oxford, 1703, engraved by M. Burghers

name of the second of its great patrons, Dr. John Fell, Dean of Christ Church and Bishop of Oxford. Fell made the great collection of type-punches and matrices from which the beautiful types known by his name are still cast at Oxford; he promoted the setting up of a paper mill at Wolvercote, where Oxford paper is still

made; he conducted the long, and ultimately successful, struggle with the Stationers and the King's Printers, from which the history of Oxford Bibles and Prayer Books begins (1675). In 1671 he and three others took over the management of the Press, paying the University £200 a year and spending themselves a large sum upon its development. Lastly, it seems that he suggested to Archbishop Sheldon the provision, due to his munificence, of the new and spacious printing house and *Theatre* which still bears his name. The Press was installed there in 1669, and began to issue the long series of books which bear the imprint *Oxoniae e Theatro Sheldoniano*, or in the vulgar tongue *Oxford at the Theater*. These imprints, indeed, were still used, at times, long after the Press had been moved from the Sheldonian to its next home in the Clarendon Building. Many learned folios were printed at this time, including pioneer work by Oxford students of Oriental languages; the book best remembered to-day is no doubt Anthony Wood's *Historia et Antiquitates Universitatis Oxoniensis* published in 1674.

To this period belongs also the first exercise of the privilege to print Bibles and Prayer Books, which was recognized, as we have seen, at least as early as 1637, when the Stationers' Company paid the University to refrain from printing Bibles. This agreement lasted until 1642, and, by renewal at intervals, until 1672, when it was at length denounced; and in 1675 a quarto English Bible was printed *at the Theater*, and a beginning made of what has become an extensive and highly technical process of manufacture and distribution.

Early in the eighteenth century the Press acquired, with a new habitation, a name still in very general use.

Renaud inven: OXONIÆ. e Theatro Sheldoniano. M.DC LXXIV. R: White sculpsit

The University was granted the perpetual copyright of Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion* (a possession in which it was confirmed by the Copyright Act of 1911); and the *Clarendon Building* was built chiefly from the profits accruing from the sales of that book. Many editions were printed in folio at various dates; and the Press Catalogue still offers the fine edition of 1849, with the notes of Bishop Warburton, in seven volumes octavo, and that of the *Life* in two volumes, 1857; the whole comprising over 5,000 pages and sold for £4 10*s*. Still cheaper is the one-volume edition of 1843, in 1,366 pages royal octavo, the price of which is 21*s*. More recently the demands of piety have been still further satisfied by the issue of a new edition based on fresh collations made from the manuscript by the late Dr. Macray. Though the Clarendon Building long since ceased to be a printing house, one of its rooms is still *The Delegates' Room*; and there the Delegates of the Press hold their stated meetings.

In the eighteenth century the Bible Press grew in strength with the co-operation of London booksellers and finally with the establishment (in 1770, if not earlier) of its own Bible Warehouse in Paternoster Row. The Learned Press, on the other hand, though some important books were produced, suffered from the general apathy which then pervaded the University. Sir William Blackstone, having been appointed a Delegate, found that his colleagues did not meet, or met only to do nothing; and addressed to the Vice-Chancellor a vigorous pamphlet, in which he described the Press as 'languishing in a lazy obscurity, and barely reminding us of its existence, by now and then slowly bringing forth a Program, a Sermon printed by request, or at best a Bodleian Catalogue'.

The Three University Presses

The great lawyer's polemic gradually battered down the ramparts of ignorant negligence, and the Press began to revive under the new statute which he promoted. Dr. Johnson in 1767 was able to assure his sovereign that the authorities at Oxford 'had put their press under better regulation, and were at that time printing *Polybius*'.

The Clarendon Building is not large, and the Press very soon outgrowing it was partly housed in various adjacent buildings, until in 1826–30 the present Press in Walton Street was erected. It is remarkable that though the building is more like a college than a factory —it is of the quadrangular plan regular in Oxford—and was built when printing was still mainly a handicraft, it has been found possible to adapt its solid fabric and spacious rooms to modern processes with very little structural alteration. Extensive additions, however, have been and are even now being made.

The activities of the nineteenth century are too various to detail; but a few outstanding facts claim mention. The Bible business continued to prosper, and gained immensely in variety by the introduction of Oxford India paper and by the publication, in conjunction with Cambridge, of the Revised Version of the Old and New Testaments. Earlier in the century there was a period of great activity in the production of editions of the Classics, in which Gaisford played a great part and to which many foreign scholars like Wyttenbach and Dindorf gave their support. Later, in the Secretaryships of Kitchin (for many years afterwards Dean of Durham) and of Bartholomew Price, new ground was broken with the famous *Clarendon Press Series* of school books by such scholars as Aldis Wright, whose editions of Shakespeare

THE QUADRANGLE OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESS AT OXFORD

Fire-place in the Delegates' Room
Clarendon Building

Grinling Gibbons Fire-place in one
of the London Offices

have long served as a quarry for successive editors. The *New English Dictionary* began to be published in 1884. Meanwhile the manufacturing powers of the Press at Oxford and the selling powers of the publishing house in London were very widely extended by the energies of Mr. Horace Hart and Mr. Henry Frowde, and the foundations were laid of the great and multifarious enterprises which belong to the history of the last twenty years.

The growth of the Press in the first two decades of the present century is due to the co-operation of a large number of individuals: of the members of the University who have acted as Delegates; of their officers, managers, and employees; and of the authors of Oxford books. In so far, however, as this period of its history can be identified with the name of one man, it will be remembered as that in which the late CHARLES CANNAN served the Delegates as Secretary. The Delegates at his death placed on record their judgement that he had made an inestimable contribution to the prosperity and usefulness of the Press. The *Times Literary Supplement*, in reviewing the last edition of the *Oxford University Roll of Service*, gave some account of the services performed by the University in the war. One paragraph dealt with the work of the Press:—

'Probably no European Press did more to propagate historical and ethical truth about the war. The death of its Secretary, Charles Cannan, a year ago, has left an inconsolable regret among all those more fortunate Oxford men, old and young, who had the honour to be acquainted with one of the finest characters and most piercing intelligences of our time. He was a very great man, and is alive to-day in the spirit of the institution which he enriched with his personality and his life.'

II

THE PRESS TO-DAY

§ 1. *The Press at Oxford*

THE main building of the Oxford Press, erected 1826–30, consists of three sides of a quadrangle. The two main wings, each of three floors, are still known as the *Learned Side* and the *Bible Side*, though their appropriation to Bibles and secular books has long since ceased in fact. On the Learned Side are the hand composing rooms, both the book department and the jobbing department, where some readers and compositors are employed in setting up the official papers of the University, examination papers, and other miscellaneous work, and the more difficult and complicated books produced for the Delegates or other publishers.

The total quantity of type in the Press is estimated at

FELL 3-line Pica

John Fell. 1689
Christ Church

FELL Double Pica

EARLIEST PRINTERS. The ecclesiastical and academical world probably viewed printers at first with some

FELL Great Primer

THE FIRST OXFORD BOOK. The first book printed at Oxford bears the unmistakable date MCCCCLXVIII (1468). Even

FELL Pica

THE SECOND OXFORD PRESS, 1517–20. The second press is peculiar for its short and almost unrecorded work, and for the entire absence of Theology among its products, whereas in the first press Theology and Classics were about

FELL Small Pica

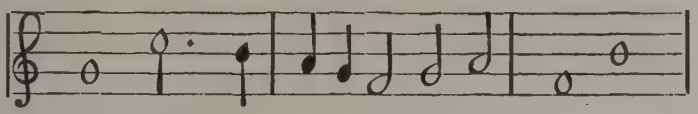
THE OXFORD PRESS, 1585–1669. The great feature of this interesting period is the London counterfeits of Oxford imprints, the royalist publishers in London

FELL Brevier

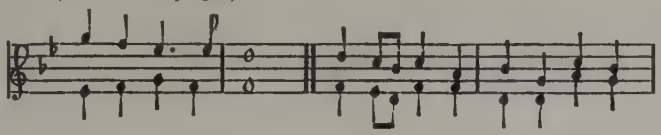
OXFORD TYPES OF 1693. It was for this reason that when an edition of the Lord's Prayer in more than a hundred languages was published at London, in 1700 and 1713, pp. 9–24 (two sheets), containing Hebrew, Samaritan, Syriac,

Walpergen

MUSIC



Old face (based on Walpergen)



ROMAN AND ITALIC

OLD STYLE

English

When I say that all governments are alike, I consider *that in no government power can be abused long. Man-*

Pica

kind will not bear it. If a sovereign oppresses his people *to a great degree, they will rise and cut off his head. There*

Small pica

is a remedy in human nature against tyranny, that will keep us *safe under every form of government. Sir Adam introduced the ancient*

NEW STYLE

Pica

Greeks and Romans. Johnson. 'Sir, the mass of both of *them were barbarians. The mass of every people must be bar-*

Small pica

barous where there is no printing, and consequently knowledge is *not generally diffused. Knowledge is diffused among our people by*

Long primer.

our people by the newspapers.'—Boswell's Life of Johnson, 1791. *When I say that all governments are alike, I consider that in no government*

Bourgeois

power can be abused long. Mankind will not bear it. If a sovereign oppresses *his people to a great degree, they will rise and cut off his head. There is a remedy*

Brevier

in human nature against tyranny, that will keep us safe under every form of *government. Sir Adam introduced the ancient Greeks and Romans. Johnson. 'Sir, the*

ARABIC

3-line bourgeois

اعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم

Long primer

شاورن لاباری ڈیوونی ڈن

لهم كتابا بعهد وامان فاتاهم بد يزيد

ARMENIAN

Small pica

Ինչու որ Աստուած անանկ սիրեց աշխարհը մինչև որ իր միածին Որդին տուաւ. որ ամէն մէկ որ անոր Հաւատայ՝ չկորսուի, Հապա յաւիտենական կեանք

BENGALI

Pica

যুবা পুরুষদিগের সংসারে প্রবেশ করিবার পূর্ব্বে বিবেচন করা কর্ত্তব্য যে তাহাদিগের নি জজীবনের উদ্দেশ্য কি। আমরা কি হইবার আকাঙ্ক্ষা করি এবং তন্নিমিত্ত

BURMESE

Great primer

အကြောင်းမူကားသားတော်

ကိုယုံကြည်သောသူတိုင်း

Pica

မပျက် မစီးဘဲ ထာဝရအသက်ကို

CHINESE

English

滅 信 他 獨 甚 上
亡, 他 們, 生 至 帝
反 的, 叫 子 將 愛
得 不 一 賜 他 世
永 至 切 給 的 人,

COPTIC

Pica

Παιρнϯ ϫαρⲉϕϯ ⲙⲙⲉпρⲉ
пικοсⲙⲙοс ⲉωсϯⲉ печ-

Pica

ⲱнρι ⲙⲙⲁⲁⲁϫⲁϯⲉч ⲛ̀ϯⲉⲥϯнιⲥч

Long primer

ⲉⲙⲁ ⲟⲧⲟⲙⲡⲓⲃⲉⲛ ⲉⲟⲛⲁⲉϕϯ ⲉⲣⲟⲥ

ETHIOPIC

English

እስመ : ከመዝ : አፍቀሮ : እግ
ዚአብሔር : ለዓለም : እስከ :

Long primer

ወልደ፡ ዋሕደ፡ ወህበ፡ ቤዝ፡ከመ፡ኩሉ፡
ዘየአምን፡ ቦቱ፡ ኢይትሐጕል፡ አላ፡

GREEK

English

φάσκων ὑπὸ τοῦ πατρός,

Eng. Porsonic

αὐτοῖς τὴν ἑκάστου γνῶσιν

Pica Scapula

αὐτοῖς τὴν ἑκάστου γνῶσιν

Pica

μεταπεμφθῆναι φάσκων ὑπὸ

HEBREW

English (pointed)

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת

Long primer (pointed)

וְשָׂרָם וְהַמוֹנָם אֲבִי יָשָׁר מֵאֲשֶׁר בַּנְּבוֹנִים

Long primer (unpointed)

על עצמו להגיע ליורשו ושאל מלפנינו

HIEROGLYPHS

3-line nonpareil

RUSSIAN

Small pica

Здоро́вья на нихъ не ку́пишь

Bourgeois

а́мый большо́й а́мый кве́рный а́мый

SLAVONIC

Great primer

ИБЂЄ. ДА ГТИТГЛ ИМЛ

SANSKRIT

Paragon

आनंतलियं पटिवेदेतविये

मे ति सवत सवं कालं

Pica

तपसो हि सम्यक्कृतस्य नास्त्यसाध्यं

SINHALESE

Pica

මක්නිසාද දෙවියන්වහන්

සේ තමන් ඒකජාත පුත්‍රයා

ණන් අදහාගන්නා සියල්

ලන් විනාශයට නොපැමිණ

සදාකාල ජීවනය ලබන

SYRIAC

Pica (Estranghelo)

ܠܐ ܕܚܒܝ ܗܘ ܡܢ ܕܒܗ ܡܗܝܡܢ ܒܟܠ

Long primer (Maronite)

ﻣﺎ ﺗﺒﻄﻞ ﻣﻦ ﺑﻌﺪ ﻛﻞ ﺍﻟﺘﺴﺎﺑﻴﺢ

Long primer (Nestorian)

ܐܠܐ ܢܝܚ ܐܒܕ ܠ ܐܒܕ ܒܟܠ ܕܪܐ

TAMIL

English

தேவன், தம்முடையஒரே

பேரான குமாரனை விசுவா

Small pica

சிக் இறவன் எவனே அவன் கெட்

Brevier

பெ போகாமல் நித்தியஜீவனை அடையும்படிக்கு

TIBETAN

Double pica

དགོན་མཆོག་གིས་ཅིད་ཀྱི་སྲས་

2-line brevier

གཅིག་པོ་གཤང་བ་ཙམ་དུ་འཛིག་རྟེན་ལ་

ཐམས་བང་མཛད་པས། སྐྱབང་དེ་ལ་དད་པ་

over one million pounds of metal, and includes some 550 different founts of type in some 150 different characters, ranging from the hieroglyphic and the prehistoric 'Minoan' (cast to record Sir Arthur Evans's discoveries), to the phonetic scripts of Sweet and Passy; and including Sanskrit, Greek, Roman, Hebrew, Arabic, Syriac, Ethiopic, Amharic, Coptic, Armenian, Chinese, Tibetan, Burmese, Sinhalese, Tamil, Gothic, Cyrillic. Here, too, are the famous Fell types acquired by the University about 1667. These are virtually the same as the founts from which were printed the first edition of *The Faerie Queene* and the First Folio Shakespeare; and their beauty makes them still the envy of printers all the world over. Here compositors are still daily engaged in setting the Oxford Dictionary (with its twenty-one different sizes or characters of type), which has been slowly growing since 1882. One compositor has a record of thirty-eight years' continuous work on the Dictionary.

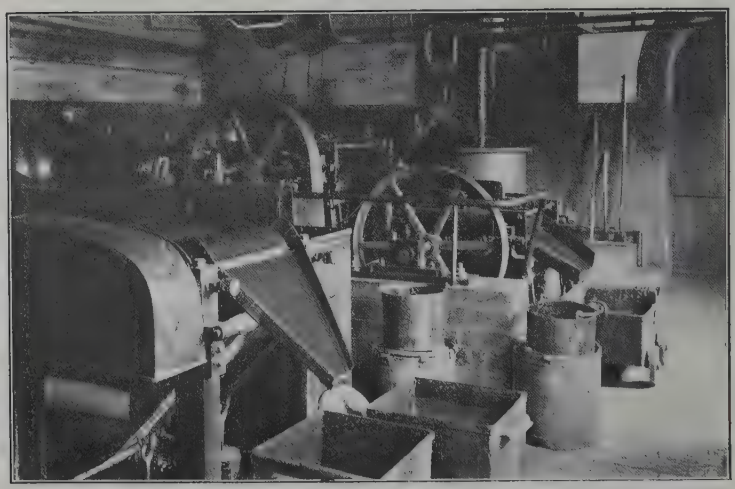
In part of the same wing is the *Delegates' Warehouse*. Here, and in a number of annexes, including the old *Delegates' School* built about 1840, repose the oldest and most durable of the Delegates' publications. They are stored for the most part in lofty stacks of unfolded sheets, like the piers of a Norman crypt. From these vaults was drawn into the upper air, in 1907, the last copy of Wilkins's *Coptic New Testament*, published in 1716, the paper hardly discoloured and the impression still black and brilliant. It is estimated that these warehouses contain some three and a half million copies of about four thousand five hundred distinct books.

Of the *Bible Side* the ground floor is now the press room or *Machine Room*, which, with its more recent extensions, holds about fifty machines, from the last survivor of the

Ancient Oak Frames in one of the Composing Rooms

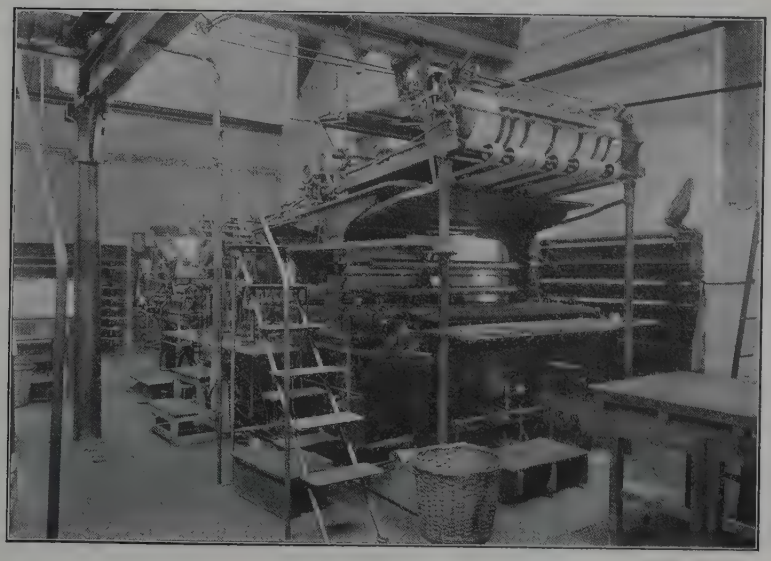
The Upper Composing Room

Monotype Casters



Ink-making

The Old Machine Room



A Perfecting Machine with Self-feeder

The Old Bindery (now a Warehouse)

One of the Warehouses

old flat-impression double Platens to the most modern American double-cylinder 'perfecting' presses with their automatic 'feeders'. All kinds of printing are done here, from the small numbers of an oriental book or a Prayer Book in black and red to the largest impression of a Bible printed in sheets containing 320 pages each. The long experience of printing Bibles on thin paper and especially on Oxford India paper has given the Oxford machine-minder an unrivalled dexterity in the nice adjustment required to produce a fine clean effect on paper which will not stand a heavy impression.

As the sheets come from machine they are sent to the *Bindery*. This was until recently on the floor above the machine room, but has lately been transferred to a larger and more convenient building erected in the old garden behind the Press. The Oxford Bindery deals with most of the Clarendon Press books in cloth bindings, and prides itself upon the fine finish of the cases and gilding of such beautiful books as the *Oxford Book of English Verse*, as well as on being able to turn out artistic and attractive cloth and paper bindings for books sold at the lowest prices. It still deals with a part only of the books printed under the same roof; but a large expansion is looked for in the near future.

Between the two wings, and across the quadrangle, are two houses once occupied by the late Horace Hart and by Dr. Henry Bradley, now the senior of the three editors of the Oxford Dictionary. The houses became some years ago unfit for habitation from the encroachment of machinery; but one of them was a welcome refuge during the years of war to the staff of the Oxford Local Examinations, who on the 5th of August 1914 were turned out of their office at an hour's notice to make room for a Base Hospital.

Adjacent to the houses are the fire-proof *Plate Room*, where some 750 tons of metal are stored, the *Stereotype and Electrotype Foundry*, and the *Monotype Rooms*, a department which has lately added to its equipment and bids fair to pass the ancient composing rooms in output. Other departments in and about the old building are the *Photographic Room*, famous for its collotype printing, the *Type Foundry*, where Fell type is still cast from the old matrices, and the *Ink Factory*.

The front of the building on Walton Street consists chiefly of packing rooms, where books are dispatched by rail or road to the City of London and elsewhere, and of offices—those of the Printer to the University on the ground floor and those of the Secretary to the Delegates above. Here are reference libraries of books printed or published by the Press, and records ranging from the oldest Delegates' minute-book of the seventeenth century to modern type-written correspondence arranged on the 'vertical' system of filing.

As the visitor enters the main gate the first object which catches his eye is a plain stone monument on the lawn. There are inscribed the names of the forty-four men of the Oxford Press who gave their lives in the War. Beyond the memorial is the quadrangle, made beautiful by grass and old trees; and from upper windows it is still possible to look over the flats of the Thames Valley and see the sun set behind Wytham Woods.

Corporate feeling has always been strong among the workers at the Press, and though the Delegates and their officers have done what they could to promote it, it is essentially a natural growth. Many of the work-people come of families which have been connected with the Press for generations; and they are proud not only of

The New Bindery

The Crypt

THE NAGEL BUILDING

THE WAR MEMORIAL

the old traditions of fine and honest work, but also of the usefulness and scholarly excellence of the books on which their labour is spent. The Press is, in all its parts, conscious at once of its unity and of its relation to the University of which it is an integral part.

This spirit is well shown by the history of the Press Volunteer Fire Brigade, constituted in 1885. The Brigade now numbers thirty-two officers and men, who by regular drills and competitions have made themselves efficient firemen, and able to assist the Oxford City Brigade in case of need. The Press possesses also a branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and first aid can be given at once if any accident happens.

Various Provident and Benevolent Societies exist at the Press, and the principle of co-operation by the employer was recognized for many years before the passing of the National Health Insurance Act. The Hospitals Fund makes substantial yearly contributions to the Radcliffe Infirmary and the Oxford Eye Hospital, and in view of the pressing needs of these institutions the subscription to the Fund has recently been doubled.

The common life naturally finds expression in the organization of recreation of all kinds. There is a Dramatic Society, the records of which go back to 1860; an Instrumental Society, dating from 1852; a Vocal Society, a Minstrel Society, a Piscatorial Society; Athletic, Cricket, Football, and Bowls Clubs, now amalgamated; and, not the least useful nor the least entertaining, the Gardening Association, formed during the war to meet the demand for more potatoes. Such of the men of the Press as were obliged to content themselves with the defence of the home front, responded with enthusiasm in their own gardens and allotments; and the Food

Production Exhibition which crowned their efforts in the summer of 1918 became an annual event. In peace, as in war, there is need for all the food we can produce; and the Gardening Association has very wisely not relaxed its efforts.

The Clarendon Press Institute in Walton Street, close to the Press itself, provides accommodation for lectures, debates, and dramatic and other entertainments, as well as a library, a reading room, and rooms for indoor games. The building was given by the Delegates, who contribute to its maintenance, but its management is completely democratic. The members appoint their own executive and are responsible for their own finances.

The Council have since 1919 issued a quarterly illustrated Magazine, printed 'in the house'. The *Clarendonian* publishes valuable and entertaining records of the professional interests and social activities of the employees of the Press, as well as affording some outlet for literary aspirations.

§ 2. *The Press in the War*

THE Press made to the prosecution of the War both a direct and an indirect contribution. In August 1914 about 575 adult males were employed at Oxford; of these sixty-three, being members of the Territorial Force, were mobilized at the outbreak of war; and of the remainder some 293 enlisted in 1914 or later. Considering the number of those who from age or other causes were unfit for service, the proportion of voluntary enlistment was high. The London Office and Wolvercote Mill also gave their quota to the service of the Crown.

Those who were obliged to remain behind were not idle. The Oxford historians at once engaged in the controversy upon the responsibility for the War; and in September 1914 the Press published *Why We are at War: Great Britain's Case*, a series of essays closely and dispassionately reasoned, and illustrated by official documents including the German White Book, reproduced exactly from the English translation published in Berlin for neutral consumption and vitiated by clumsy variations from the German original. *Why We are at War* rapidly went through twelve impressions, and at the instance of Government was translated into six languages. The profits were handed over to the Belgian Relief Fund. At the same time was initiated, under the editorship of Mr. H. W. C. Davis, the series of Oxford Pamphlets on war topics, of which in a short time more than half a million copies were sold all over the world. Later, when the

public appetite for pamphlets slackened, and the world had leisure for closer study, the series of *Histories of the Belligerents* was founded, which is noticed elsewhere.

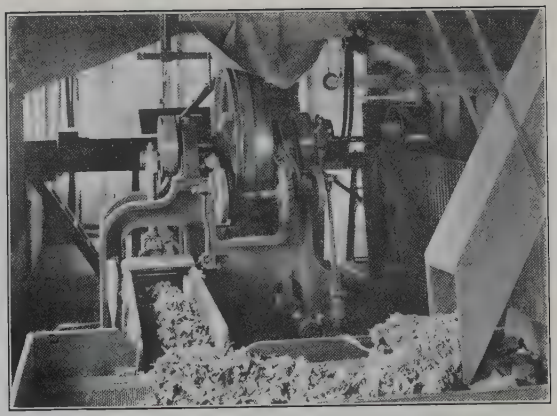
'The Clarendon Press,' writes Sir Walter Raleigh in his Introduction to the *Oxford University Roll of Service*, 'though deprived of the services of virtually all its men of military age, was active in the production of books and pamphlets, most of them written by Oxford men, setting forth the causes and issues of the War—a mine of information, and an armoury of apologetics.'

Not the least of the services rendered by the Press was the printing done for the Naval Intelligence Department of the Admiralty directed by Admiral Sir Reginald Hall. Both secrecy and speed were essential to the usefulness of this work, and to secure them the Printer to the University made special arrangements involving a severe strain upon himself and those to whom the work was entrusted. Admiral Hall, when unveiling the Press War Memorial in October 1920, declared that the work done was unique in kind, and that without the help of the Press the operations of his Department could not have been carried out with success.

As the War dragged on, the numbers employed at the Press steadily declined; the demands of Government as steadily increased; the shortage of materials of all kinds became more and more acute. None the less the Bible Press met an unprecedented demand for the New Testament by supplying within three years four and a half million of copies for use in the field. The Learned Press, too, continued to produce, though the volume of production became less and less. The machinery of the Dictionary, though its movement was retarded, never came to a standstill. The scientific journals continued to

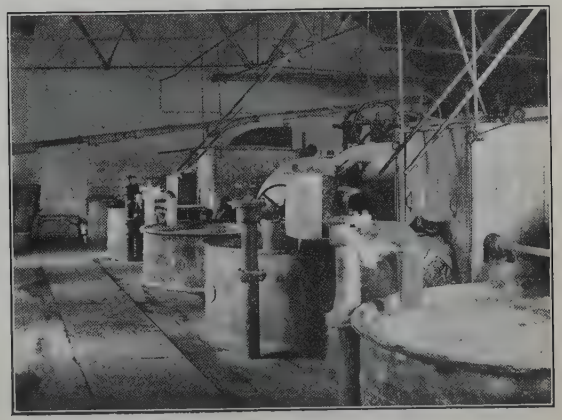
WOLVERCOTE PAPER MILL

Rag Sorting



Rag Cutting

Rag Boiling



Rag Breaking

appear, and not a few learned books were published. A greater number, however, were placed in the Delegates' safes, in expectation of the increased facilities which the end of the War has hardly brought. The manufacturing powers of the Press, indeed, have virtually reached their pre-war level; but the ever-rising cost of labour and materials has made it as yet impossible to restore to its old volume the output of books which could at no time have been remunerative. It may be added that the Delegates, like other publishers, have had to consider that the purchasing power of the public on which they rely has not kept pace with the rise in costs. The price of books has of course risen very greatly; but the ratio of increase has been substantially lower than that of commodities in general.

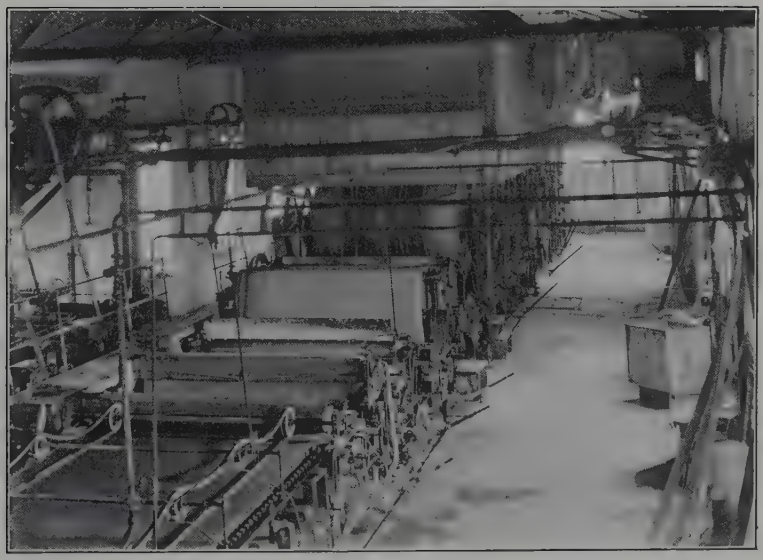
§ 3. *Wolvercote Paper Mill*

THE first mention of paper-making in or near Oxford is a story of one Edwards, who about 1670 planned to erect a mill at Wolvercote and was encouraged by Fell. In 1718 Hearne the antiquary wrote that 'some of the best paper in England is made at Wolvercote Mill'. It was bought by the Press in 1870.

The Mill stands on a branch of the Thames, on the edge of the quiet village of Wolvercote, and near the ruins of Godstow Nunnery. The water-wheel has long ceased to play more than a very minor part in the driving of the mill, which now has two modern paper-making machines, 72 and 80 inches wide respectively. The power used is partly steam, but a large part of the plant has quite recently been electrified.

Most varieties of high-class printing paper are made at Wolvercote, which besides feeding the Press does a considerable trade with other printers. The paper made for the Oxford Dictionary and some other books is of the finest rag and is probably as durable as the best hand-made paper of former times. But the Mill is best known for its 'Bible' papers, exceptionally thin, tough, and opaque, with a fine printing surface. Paper of this kind reaches its acme in the famous Oxford India Paper, the invention of which made revolutionary changes in the printing of Bibles. A great many Oxford books are now printed in two editions, an ordinary and

Beater Room



Machine Room

Paper Sorting

Paper Stock Warehouse

an India paper. If the saving of space is an important consideration, the convenience of the thinner editions of such books as the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, the *Concise Dictionary of National Biography*, or the *Oxford Survey of the British Empire* is obvious; and many people like to read the Poets and the Classics in thin and light volumes. The *Oxford Homer* will go into a pocket, though it has 1,374 pages; and the India paper *Shakespeare* and *Oxford Book of English Verse* are delightfully easy to carry and handle.

The Controller of the Mill is Mr. Douglas Clapperton (a name well known in the paper trade), who succeeded Mr. Joseph Castle in 1916.

§ 4. *The Press in London*

THE association of the Oxford Press with London booksellers—the publishers of former days—goes back to early times. Apart from the negative agreement with the Stationers' Company, *not* to print Bibles and Almanacks, we find, at the end of the seventeenth century, Oxford Bibles bearing the imprint of various London booksellers. In 1776 Dr. Johnson wrote to the Master of University College a letter, printed by Boswell, in which he sets forth with knowledge and perspicacity the philosophy of bookselling; the moral of the discourse is that the University must offer more attractive discounts to the book trade—a doctrine which has been adopted in modern times, though in 1776 it perhaps fell upon deaf ears.

Not later than 1770 a Bible Warehouse was established in Paternoster Row. But it was not until a century later that the Press undertook the distribution in London of its secular books. In 1884 these books, formerly sold by Messrs. Macmillan, were taken over by the Manager of the Bible Warehouse, Mr. Henry Frowde, who thus became sole publisher to the University; an office which he continued to hold with great skill, devotion, and success until on his retirement in 1913 he was succeeded by Mr. Humphrey Milford.

To-day the activities of the Press in or near Amen Corner, London, E.C. 4, are multifarious. From his bound stocks Mr. Milford is ready at short notice to supply to

AMEN CORNER LONDON

the booksellers or booksellers' agents any Clarendon Press book, any Bible or Prayer Book, any of the books published by himself as publisher to the University, such as Oxford Poets, World's Classics, Oxford Elementary Books, or by himself and Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton—the Oxford Medical Publications—or for the numerous learned bodies and American Universities for whom he is agent whether in the United Kingdom or universally.

In the premises at Amen Corner alone it is estimated that upwards of three quarters of a million books are at any one time in stock. Packing and distribution is carried on in the basement and also at Falcon Square, where the large export department operates. Mr. Milford also maintains at Old Street a 'quire' department from which books in sheets are given out to his own or other binderies, and in Aldersgate Street a bindery from which many of the finest Bibles and other leather books are turned out.

The offices at Amen Corner are the centre of the selling activities of the Press; from them is directed the policy of the branches of the business at home and abroad. An institution so far-flung naturally causes some confusion in the public mind. Inquiries from India have sometimes been addressed to New York, and Mr. Horace Hart treasured an envelope addressed to *The Controller of the Universe.* In general, however, it is now widely understood that inquiries for books should be addressed (by booksellers, or by the public, if the usual trade channels fail) to *Oxford University Press* in London or at the nearest Branch (New York, Toronto, Melbourne, Cape Town, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Shanghai, Copenhagen); questions about printing to *Controller, Clarendon Press, Oxford,* and proposals for publication either to the nearest Branch or direct to the *Secretary, Clarendon Press, Oxford.*

§ 5. *The Administration of the Press*

ALL the activities of the Press may be described as a function of the corporation known as the *Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars* of the University of Oxford, acting through the Delegates of the Press. The constitution of this Delegacy is in some respects peculiar. So long ago as 1757 the statute promoted by Sir William Blackstone for the better management of the Press established the principles of continuity and of expert knowledge by the constitution of *Perpetual Delegates*; and these principles have been maintained.

The Delegacy is now composed of the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors for the time being *ex officio*, and (normally) of ten others, of whom five are Perpetual. Delegates are appointed for a term of years by the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors, by whom they may be re-elected; but when a vacancy occurs among the perpetual Delegates, the Delegates as a whole are enjoined by statute to 'subrogate' one of the junior Delegates to be perpetual, *ad supplendum perpetuo numerum quinque Perpetuorum Delegatorum.*

The roll of the Delegates contains the names of many famous scholars. Among those of recent times may be mentioned William Stubbs, Ingram Bywater, Frederick York Powell. Within the last few years the Press has sustained very heavy losses in the death of some of the most experienced of its Delegates. William Sanday, Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity, took an active part in the many works of profound learning upon New Testament criticism, by which Oxford has maintained its fame for the prosecution of Biblical learning. Henry Tresawna Gerrans, Fellow of Worcester College, was active in financial administration and in the organization of

educational publications. David Henry Nagel, Fellow of Trinity College, gave invaluable advice on scientific books and on technical processes of manufacture. He was chiefly responsible for the plan of the new Bindery, recently completed, which bears his name. The services of Sir William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine, and of Charles Cannan, of Trinity College, for over twenty years Secretary to the Delegates, are noticed elsewhere in these pages.

The composition of the board on 1 December 1921 was as follows:

The Vice-Chancellor (Dr. L. R. Farnell, Rector of Exeter College) and the Proctors; T. B. Strong, Bishop of Ripon and formerly Dean of Christ Church (*extra numerum*, by Decree of Convocation); C. R. L. Fletcher, Magdalen College; P. E. Matheson, Fellow of New College; D. G. Hogarth, Fellow of Magdalen College and Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum; N. Whatley, Fellow of Hertford College; Sir Walter Raleigh, Fellow of Merton College and Professor of English Literature—all perpetual Delegates: H. J. White, Dean of Christ Church; Sir Archibald Garrod, Student of Christ Church and Regius Professor of Medicine; Cyril Bailey, Fellow of Balliol College; H. E. D. Blakiston, President of Trinity; and N. V. Sidgwick, Fellow of Lincoln.

The principal officers are: *in Oxford*, R. W. Chapman, Oriel College, *Secretary*; J. de M. Johnson, Exeter College, *Assistant Secretary*; F. J. Hall, *Printer to the University*; *in London*, Humphrey Milford, New College, *Publisher to the University*; *in New York*, W. W. McIntosh, Vice-President of the American Branch; *in Toronto*, S. B. Gundy, Manager of the Canadian Branch; *in Bombay*, G. F. J. Cumberlege, Worcester College, Manager of the Indian Branch; *in Melbourne*, E. R. Bartholomew, Manager of the Australian Branch.

§ 6. *The Finances of the Press*

FOR some two centuries from the time of Fell the Press was partly controlled by private partners; since the last of these was bought out by the efforts of Bartholomew Price, the University has been completely master of all its printing and publishing business. The Press to-day has no shareholders or debenture-holders, and subserves no private interest. On the other hand it possesses virtually no endowment. The whole of its great business has been gradually built up by the thrifty utilization of profits made by the sale of its books or in a minor degree from work done for outside customers. The maintenance of the Learned Press, with its output of scholarly and educational books, many of which are in their nature unremunerative, depends and has always depended upon the profitable management of the publications of the Press as a whole. In the last century the revenue devoted to learning was supplied mainly from the sale of Bibles and Prayer Books; but changing conditions led the managers of the Press to the conclusion that if the promotion of education and research were to keep pace with the growing volume and range of the demand, it would be necessary to expand the general activities of the business in many directions.

In prudent pursuance of a far-sighted policy, the overseas Branches of the Press were established to increase the sale of Oxford books; new departments of the pub-

lishing business were created, such as the very extensive series of cheap editions of the English Classics, and, more recently, the Oxford Elementary Books and the Oxford Medical Publications; and in the course of years the publications of the Learned Press itself have gradually become more popular in character and addressed to a wider audience. In the event, the Press to-day possesses a business of such magnitude and variety as will, it may be hoped, enable it to surmount the formidable obstacles which the increased cost of manufacture opposes to the production of all works of learning.

The demands made upon the Press for the organization and publication of research are now at least as great as ever. It has again and again been pointed out by the friends of research, that organization and encouragement are idle unless the publication of valuable results is guaranteed; and in the past scholars in this country, and not in this country only, have looked to the Presses of Oxford and Cambridge to do the work which in Germany was carried out by Academies subsidized by Government for this purpose. But the fulfilment of such expectations is far more onerous than formerly. The tenth and last volume of the great English Dictionary, now more than half printed, will when it is complete have cost at least £50,000. The revised edition of Liddell and Scott's Greek Lexicon, upon which the Delegates embarked some years before the war, is now estimated to cost £20,000. These are enterprises in the successful conclusion of which the honour of the University is concerned; and they will be concluded; but the date of completion, and therefore the initiation of other projects of learning, have inevitably been retarded by the events of the last seven years.

The endowment of research is a difficult subject, and nobody is more conscious than are the Delegates of the Press, that results of lasting value are not achieved by the mere expenditure of money. Yet they cannot but be aware that by the possession of the machinery and traditions of such works as the English Dictionary, and by their intimate association with experts in many fields, they are in a position to promote research and co-operative enterprise in the most effective and economical way. The support given to the Press in the past, whether by individuals or by other institutions devoted to learning, has been trifling in consideration of the work which it has produced. The need of such support is now far more urgent; and the record of the Press is proof that financial support would be turned to good account.

§ 7. *Oxford Imprints*

THE imprints used by the Press as printers and as publishers are various, and their import is not always understood. *Oxford at the Clarendon Press* is historically and strictly a printer's imprint, and it is confined to books printed at Oxford; but it has come to mean more than this, and to be appropriated to such books as are not only printed at Oxford, but are also published *auctoritate Universitatis*, their contents as well as their form being certified by the University, acting through the Delegates of the Press. A book with this imprint may in general be assumed to be published at the expense of the Delegates; but the 'Clarendon Press imprint' has come to be so prized as carrying the Oxford 'hall-mark' that its use has occasionally been solicited and accorded for works of learning produced under the patronage of government or of learned societies within the Empire and the United States of America.

The Press publishes also, in the ordinary course of business, large numbers of books for which the Delegates assume a less particular responsibility; these are issued with the London imprint of the Publisher to the University (*Oxford University Press: London, Humphrey Milford*) or those of its branches abroad (*Oxford University Press American Branch, Oxford University Press Indian Branch* and so on), or on behalf of the numerous universities, learned societies, or private publishers for whom the University

Explicit expositio sancti Jeronimi in simbolo apostolorum ad papam laurentium Impressa Oxonie Et finita Anno domini . M . cccc . lxxviij . xvij° die decembris .

From the last page of the first Oxford book, 1468 (?1478)

Explicit sententiosa atq; studio digna expositio venerabilis Alexandri sup terciū libū de anima. Impressum p me Theodericū wod de Colonia in alma vniūsitate Oxoñ. Anno incarnacōis dñice. M. cccc. lxxxi. xi. die mensis Octobris.

Impressum est presens opusculum in celeberima vniuersitate Oxonien̄ per me Joannem Scolar in viculo diui Joannis baptiste moram trahentē Anno dñi. M. CCCCC. decioctauo. Mensis vero Junij die septimo.

Joseph Barnes at Pyntiodd yn Rhydychen. 1595.

Welsh

BELLOSITI DOBVNORVM *

Excudebat *W.T.* Impensis *W.W.*

cIↃ IↃCXXVIII.

OXONIÆ
Ex Ædibus IOSEPHI BARNES
tertio Idus Ianuarij.
1585.

Joseph Barnes' first imprint

CIVIL WAR IMPRINTS

Printed by His MAJESTIES Command
AT OXFORD, February 4. 1642.
By LEONARD LICHFIELD, Printer *to the Vniversity.* 1642.

Genuine

Printed by his Majesties Command.

At OXFORD,
By *Leonard Lichfield*, Printer to the University.
MDCXLII.

Counterfeit

OXONII,

E TYPOGRAPHIA SHELDONIANA.

Anno Domini. M.DC.LXIX.

OXONII,

E Theatro SHELDONIANO.

Anno Dom. M. DC. LXX.

Printed at the THEATER in *OXFORD*, and are to be sold by *John Wilmot.* 1671.

[The Theatre imprint went on till 1783]

OXONII,
E TYPOGRAPHEO CLARENDONIANO,
An. Dom. MDCCXIII.

OXFORD,
Printed for *Thomas Wood* at the Univerſity Printing-Houſe,
MDCCXXXVIII.

OXFORD,
PRINTED AT THE CLARENDON PRESS.
M. DCC. LVIII.

OXFORD,
At the CLARENDON PRINTING-HOUSE. M.DCC.LIX.

IMPRINTS IN BIBLES

OXFORD.
At the THEATER 1675.

OXFORD,
Printed by the *UNIVERSITY PRINTERS.* 1695.

OXFORD,
Printed by *JOHN BASKETT,* Printer to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, for GREAT BRITAIN: and to the UNIVERSITY. MDCCXVII.

OXFORD,
PRINTED AT THE CLARENDON PRESS,
By WILLIAM JACKSON and WILLIAM DAWSON, Printers to the UNIVERSITY:
And ſold at the Oxford Bible Warehouſe, in Paternoſter Row, London. 1795.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

Press publishes either universally or in certain parts of the world. Among the bodies for whom the Press acts as publisher are the British Museum, the British Academy, the Early English Text Society, the Chaucer Society, and the Philological Society; the Egypt Exploration Society, Society of Antiquaries, the Pali Text Society, the Church Music Society, and the Royal Society of Literature; the Universities of St. Andrews, Bombay, and Madras; the University Presses of Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and Princeton; the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the American Historical Association, and the American Scandinavian Foundation. *The Oxford Medical Publications* and some other books are issued with the joint imprint of Henry Frowde (Mr. Humphrey Milford's predecessor as Publisher to the University) and Hodder and Stoughton. The Press is publisher in Australia to many English houses.

§ 8. *Catalogues and Advertisement*

UNTIL recent years the Press has relied on its trade catalogues and special lists, and on the skilled assistance of the bookseller, to make known to the public the great number and variety of its issues of the Bible, the New Testament, Prayer Books, Hymn Books, and kindred works, as well as of its general publications—reprints, medical books, elementary books and so on; while the Clarendon Press Catalogue of learned and educational books was a relatively modest affair of under 200 pages. The need of a single general catalogue for the information of librarians and book-lovers had long been felt, but pressure of business delayed its preparation until the late Mr. Charles Cannan addressed himself to the task, and with the devoted co-operation of his daughters (who had replaced the members of the office staff gone forth to war) and the advice of many scholars, produced in 1916 the first edition of the *General Catalogue*, comprising over 500 pages of close print and including under one comprehensive classification all the secular books sold by the Press, wheresoever printed, and whether published by the University on its own account or on behalf of other University Presses or learned bodies; together with a representative list of Bibles, &c. (useful to the inquirer though not intended as any substitute for the elaborate trade catalogues or for the indispensable guidance of the expert bookseller), and a very full alphabetical index.

The General Catalogue has in the second edition been brought up to January 1920, and a third edition is in preparation. Supplements are also from time to time issued comprehending the books published since the current edition of the Catalogue. The Supplement now current comprises all books published in 1920.

For the convenience of specialists the Catalogue is also issued in sections—History, Literature, the Classics, Natural Science, Cheap Reprints—and special lists have recently been made of books on such subjects as the British Empire, International Law and Politics, India, Modern Philosophy. Schoolmasters and University teachers are asked to apply for the *Select Educational Catalogue* issued at frequent intervals, which by omission of the larger and more elaborate books allows of illustrative information for which there is no room in the general catalogue.

The General Catalogue has been computed to contain over 8,000 distinct books or editions of books. These vary from such works as the *New English Dictionary* and the *Dictionary of National Biography*, with their 15,000 and 30,000 pages, to the smallest and cheapest pamphlets and schoolbooks. The total may be guessed to comprise something like two and a half millions of printed pages of which no two are identical.

The issue of the Catalogue has secured a wide and increasing recognition of the comprehensive character of Oxford publications. 'There are publishers and publishers, but there is only one Oxford University Press', exclaims a writer in the *Athenaeum*; and many reviewers have noted with sympathetic admiration the value of the Catalogue, not as a mere price-list but as a work of reference and as a book to read. Though it

necessarily requires revision as new publications accrue, it is hoped that the Catalogue will not be treated as 'throw-away literature'. It is a well-printed and solidly bound book, and the cost of supplying free copies to book-buyers all over the world is not inconsiderable.

The Press produces two periodicals descriptive of its publications: the official *Bulletin* distributed to booksellers, librarians, and other professional buyers, and the unofficial *Periodical* addressed to amateurs. Number 1 of the *Bulletin* (4 April 1912) consisted of a single page; but the desire for more information was widely expressed, and a recent number contains in eight pages a classified list of books published during four weeks, with bibliographical and other particulars, a statement of the various catalogues obtainable on application, extracts from reviews, and a list of books which have gone out of print since the current issue of the catalogue. This list is designed to protect booksellers and the public against the assumption, too frequently made, that any and every book is 'out of print' which cannot be produced at a moment's notice. The public are asked not to believe too easily that books are unobtainable. A provincial bookseller (in a University town) recently declared himself 'unable to trace' an Oxford book, published in 1920, reviewed at length by the leading literary papers, and advertised nearly every other week in the *Times Literary Supplement*. Many books no doubt (though not many Oxford books) have been and still are out of print; and in the absence of an up-to-date index of current books, the difficulties of the bookseller have been great. Now, however, when the 1920 edition of the trade *Reference Catalogue* is available, with its single alphabetical index (of 1,075 pages in double column), the

ascertainment of the facts is not difficult except in so far as the catalogues indexed have themselves become obsolete. All information about Oxford books that is *not* in the 1920 *Reference Catalogue* may be found in the *Supplement* of Books published in 1920, or in the cumulative list of *Price Changes*, or in the *Bulletin*; all of which every bookseller has, or may have for the asking.

With the *Bulletin* is issued from time to time a supplement calling the attention of librarians and others to Oxford books in some special field. The circulation of the *Bulletin* is about 2,000.

The *Periodical* is a 'house magázine', perhaps the first of its kind. It was first published in December 1896, and now appears five times a year. Its contents include extracts, of sufficient length to be readable, from new Oxford books, specimen illustrations, quotations from reviews and other newspaper comment on the productions of the Press, obituaries and other honorific notices of authors (on appointment, decoration, or the like), and a certain amount of quasi-literary gossip; for even authors have their foibles. The original editor, who has compiled every number for a quarter of a century, is still at his post, and the popularity of the little paper increases. The demand comes from all over the world—the United States takes nearly half the total—and the number of copies distributed gratis of each issue now exceeds ten thousand.

Oxford Bibles and Prayer Books can be inspected in mass at many booksellers', as well as in the Depository at 116 High Street, Oxford, and in the showrooms at Amen Corner, in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and in the Branches overseas. Lack of space has everywhere made it impossible to exhibit the far greater number of Claren-

don Press and other secular books on the same scale, but the books may be seen on application at any of the Press offices, and the popular series, gift books, &c., are always displayed. It is hoped before long to increase the space available for this purpose in the Oxford Depository, and to exhibit there all Clarendon Press books, arranged by subjects as in the Catalogue, so that members of the University and visitors may be able to inspect at one time and place all the books offered in any subject that may concern them. It is hoped to find room for separate exhibits of school-books, maps, and 'juvenile' books, so that the busy schoolmaster, with half an hour to spare in Oxford, may make a rapid survey of the contents of the Educational catalogue.

§ 9. *The Press and its Authors*

THE Index to the General Catalogue contains the names of some three thousand living authors and editors. With almost all of these the Press deals direct, and not through agents, and their friendly co-operation is of immense service to the Delegates and their officers both in planning books and in securing for them the widest publicity.

Many of the books accepted by the Press are such as in the ordinary way of business would not secure a publisher except under subvention from the author or some favourer of learning; and of these the remuneration (or at least the direct remuneration; for the publication of solid books, like the knowledge of Greek in former times, 'not infrequently leads to positions of emolument') is recognized as being nominal, and necessarily inadequate to the labour and skill lavished upon the work. But for books commanding a remunerative sale, if they are of a suitable kind, the Press is prepared to pay the full market value; and it is believed that not many of its authors are dissatisfied with the bargains they have made.

'It is an immense advantage to an author to be printed by a famous Press', is the opinion of a veteran of letters, whose name appears in many publishers' catalogues. It is the aim of the Oxford Press to place at its authors' service its capacity for accurate and beautiful printing and binding, the goodwill attached to the University

imprint, and the selling power enjoyed by its very large organization in the United Kingdom and throughout the world. Publication by the Press gives to an author the further security that his book will not be remaindered, pulped, or allowed to go out of print on the mere ground that it does not enjoy a rapid sale.

It is still sometimes said that 'the Press does not advertise'. It is believed that Oxford books, in an exceptional degree, advertise themselves and each other—'the Oxford book', says an American advertisement, 'is half sold already'; but the magnitude and variety of its business enable the Press to maintain an elaborate organization of 'publicity', which directs its efforts both to the booksellers and to the public at large. It relies largely upon the distribution, in many thousands of copies annually, of its catalogues and bulletins, on the direct dispatch of prospectuses to a large yet carefully selected constituency of buyers in various fields, and on the incalculable factor of public and private discussion. The value of judicious newspaper advertisement is not overlooked, as readers of the *Times Literary Supplement* well know.

THE HOLY

BIBLE,

Containing the

Old Teſtament

And the New:

Tranſlated out of the Original

Tongues and with the former Tranſlations
diligently compared and reviſed.

BY

His *Majeſties* ſpecial Command.

Appointed to be read in Churches.

OXFORD.
At the THEATER 1675.

THE ORDER OF

the Administration of

THE LORD'S SUPPER

OR

HOLY COMMUNION

Together with the Orders of

CONFIRMATION

THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRIMONY

AND THE CHURCHING OF WOMEN

According to the Use of

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Cum *Privilegio*

OXFORD

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

MCMXI

To the Kings Most Excellent Maiesty

§ 10. *Bibles and Prayer Books*

SOME account has already been given of the exercise by the University of its privilege of printing 'the King's books' in early times. The modern history of the printing and publishing of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer is a large subject. The University of Oxford, like the other privileged printers, has appreciated the obligations attached to the privilege as well as the opportunities which it affords. Every attention has been paid to accuracy and excellence of printing and binding, to the provision of editions suited to every purpose and every eyesight, and to the efficient and economical distribution of the books all over the world at low prices. In all these respects a standard has been reached which is unknown in any other kind of printing and publishing, and which is only made possible by long experience, continuous production, and intensive specialization. The modern Bible is so convenient to read and to handle

that its bulk is not always realized; it is actually more than four times as long as *David Copperfield.* A reference Bible is, also, a highly complicated piece of printing. Accuracy is secured by the employment of highly-skilled compositors and readers—a new Bible is 'read' from beginning to end many times—and by the use of the best material processes; for all Bibles are printed from copper plates on the most modern machines, and the sheets are carefully scrutinized as they come from the press. The Oxford Press offers a guinea for the discovery of a misprint; but very few guineas have been earned.

The bulk and weight of Bibles are kept down by the use of very thin and opaque paper, specially made at the Press Mill at Wolvercote. The use of such paper, and especially of the Oxford India paper, the combination in which of thinness with opacity has never been equalled, may be said to have revolutionized the printing of Bibles, by making possible the use of large clear type in a book of moderate size and weight.

Of the Prayer Book as of the Bible a large number of editions is offered to suit all fashions and purposes, and this in spite of the serious risks arising from the liability to change of the 'royal' prayers. A demise of the Crown, or the marriage of a Prince of Wales, makes it necessary to print a large number of cancel sheets, which have to be substituted for the old sheets in all copies held in stock or in the hands of booksellers.

A hundred years ago there were nineteen Oxford Bibles and twenty-one editions of the Book of Common Prayer. There are now more than a hundred of each. The Revised Version of the Bible, the copyright of which belongs to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge jointly, is also published in a large variety of editions.

ⲧⲁⲓⲇⲓⲁⲑⲏⲕⲏ ⲛⲓⲃⲉⲣⲡ

ⲛⲉⲓ ⲛⲁⲕⲱⲃ ⲙⲡⲉⲛⲡⲉⲩⲑⲏⲩ

HOC EST

NOVUM TESTAMENTUM

ÆGYPTIUM *vulgo* COPTICUM

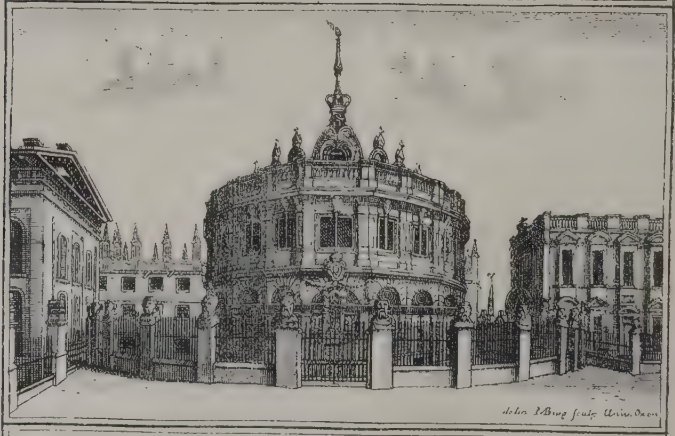
Ex *MSS.* BODLEJANIS *descripſit,*

Cum Vaticanis *et* Pariſienſibus *contulit,*

et in Latinum ſermonem convertit

DAVID WILKINS

Eccleſiæ Anglicanæ Presbyter.



OXONII,

E Theatro Sheldoniano *Typis et Sumptibus Academiæ,* 1716.

§ 11. *Clarendon Press Books*

BY Clarendon Press Books are meant the learned, educational, and other 'Standard' works produced under the close supervision of the Delegates and their Oxford Secretariate, and printed at Oxford. These books have a long history, and the Catalogue contains very many titles which have been continuously on sale for nearly a century. The Coptic New Testament of Wilkins, published in 1716, is believed to have been continuously on sale at the original price of 12*s.* 6*d.* until the last copy was sold in 1907, only a few years short of the second century. The current edition of the General Catalogue mentions as 'the oldest Oxford book still on sale' another edition of the Coptic New Testament by Woide, published in 1799 and now sold for two guineas; but it has since been noticed that an injustice had been done, and that pride of place should have been given to the Gothic Gospel, a magnificently printed quarto published in 1750, of which some dozen copies (at 30*s.*) still remain.

These are extreme examples; they are, however, the result not of oblivion or of indifference, but of a policy which has long been and is still being pursued. The Press produces many works of learning which are so securely based that it is known that the demand, however small, will persist as long as there are copies unsold; and it is the practice of the Press to print from type large editions of such books. Clarendon Press books are

neither wasted nor sold as remainders, and when a book goes out of print, some natural tears are shed.

This is one end of the scale; at the other are books commanding a large and rapid sale, books like the *Oxford Book of English Verse* or the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* and *livres de circonstance* like *Why We are at War*, which was published in September 1914 and in a few months went through twelve impressions and was translated into six foreign languages. Books of this kind are produced in mass, as cheaply as is consistent with a high standard of workmanship, and are sold all over the world in competition with rival publications and by the employment of appropriate methods of advertisement.

Between these two classes lies a great mass of miscellaneous books, too general in character to admit of description here. They are in many languages, ancient and modern, of the East and of the West; of all fields of knowledge, divine, human, and natural; and of all stages of history from the Stone Age to the Great War. It follows necessarily that Clarendon Press books appeal to widely different publics and call for the application of various instruments of distribution and publicity. All, however, benefit by the widely diffused appreciation of the standards of scholarship and of literary form which the Press has set itself to uphold. The public expects much of any Oxford book, and the satisfaction of that expectation is often onerous; but the necessary effort is justified by the results—'the Oxford book is half sold already'.

III

THE PRESS ABROAD

§ 1. *The Press in India*

THE activities of the Press in India are of relatively recent date. Until 1912, when a branch was opened in Bombay, Oxford books had been accessible only to those who were determined to procure them. The existence of a distributing centre made it possible to reach more directly the educational and the general public. But it early became apparent to the Manager—Mr. E. V. Rieu of Balliol College—that the educational needs of India could only to a small extent be met by direct importation; that it was necessary to adapt existing books to the special requirements of the country, and to create new books similar in kind. In the course of a few

years many such books were produced, at first chiefly in England, but later to an increasing degree in India itself. By 1918 at least a dozen native presses were engaged in printing and binding for the Branch. These books range from 'simplified classics' to editions of Shakespeare's plays, from school geographies to handbooks for students of medicine and law. At the same time the sale of more advanced Oxford books was largely increased. A brief description is given elsewhere of the books produced at Oxford upon the history and art of India as well as upon its classical literature and its religions. Books like Mr. Vincent Smith's *Early History of India* and his *Fine Art in India* command a wide sale among the educated natives of India.

Another field of enterprise is in vernacular education. Here the opportunities are vast, but the difficulties are great, for in most provinces many languages are spoken, and no one press is adequately equipped with the numerous founts of type required to deal with the vernaculars of India as a whole. The Branch was therefore fortunate in being, in 1916, invited by the Government of the Central Provinces to produce a series of Readers—in Hindi and Marathi—for use in schools throughout the province. At that time no paper could be imported from England, and the staff of the Branch was depleted by war. Nevertheless, within a year over half a million volumes had been written, printed, and illustrated, and were ready for distribution over a country nearly twice as large as England and Wales.

The activities of the Branch in placing the issues of the War before Indian readers in a true light attracted in 1918 the attention of Government; and the Branch was engaged by the Central Publicity Bureau to produce

an illustrated War Magazine and a mass of pamphlets in English and the vernacular tongues.

In spite of these preoccupations the Branch has been able to emulate the activities of the Press at home by co-operating with learned bodies in India to produce books of scientific value. Notable among its publications in this kind are the historical treatises of Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. Kincaid, Mr. Mookerji, and other writers, and the economic studies published on behalf of the Universities of Bombay and Madras.

Mention may also be made here of the *Classics of Indian History* which are being issued by the Press. In reviewing the latest volume of the series—Meadows Taylor's *Story of My Life*—The Times Literary Supplement says: 'It is one of those books from which history hereafter will be written. The great books—in one sense or other—like Colonel Mark Wilks's *Historical Sketches of Southern India*, Grant Duff's *History of the Mahrattas*, Tod's *Rajasthan*, Broughton's *Letters from a Mahratta Camp*, must be supplemented not only by the native records, which are more and more becoming accessible, but by the personal narratives of Englishmen who lived in out-of-the-way places and entered into the lives of the rural inhabitants of India. Beside Colonel Sleeman's *Reminiscences* must be put the autobiography of Meadows Taylor, a much superior book.' Of the books mentioned by *The Times*, Sleeman's and Tod's have already been issued, uniform with Meadows Taylor's, Dubois's *Hindu Manners*, Bernier's *Travels*, Mrs. Meer Hassan Ali's *Mussulmanns*, and Cunningham's *Sikhs*; editions of Grant Duff and Broughton are in preparation.

Mr. Rieu, when in 1919 reasons of health compelled him to retire, had in a few years proved himself a real

pioneer. He had immensely increased the volume of business done by the Branch, and had opened up new and promising fields. His successor, Major G. F. J. Cumberlege, D.S.O., of Worcester College, who was accompanied by Mr. N. L. Carrington, of Christ Church, took over a successful and growing business. The original premises in Bombay had already been outgrown, and new offices opened in Elphinstone Circle. The increase of staff has made it possible to open a new branch in Calcutta—a sub-branch in Madras already existed—and it is confidently hoped that in the near future the business done in Oxford books, and adaptations of them, will be increased in volume, and that the service rendered by Oxford to the Indian Empire will be further enhanced by the activities of its Press.

THE BOMBAY BRANCH

THE TORONTO BRANCH

§ 2. *The Press in Canada*

THE Oxford University Press Canadian Branch was founded in 1904 at 25 Richmond Street West, Toronto. The manager was Mr. S. B. Gundy, who still presides at the same address; but the building was destroyed by fire in 1905 and completely reconstructed.

Although Canada has still a relatively small population, scattered over an immense area, the volume of business done by the Branch is substantial, and it continues to grow. The sale of Oxford Bibles, Clarendon Press books, Medical and Elementary books is supplemented by the sale of books published in Canada and the United States, for which Mr. Gundy acts as agent. Thus the Branch sells all the publications of the great American house of Doubleday, Page and Company; and through this connexion it has recently become the sole publisher in Canada of the works of Mr. Rudyard Kipling.

Among the more notable Canadian enterprises of the Press are the Church of England Hymn Book (the *Book of Common Praise*), published in 1909, the large stocks of which caused Mr. Gundy 'to overflow into a neighbouring barber shop', and the new edition of the Presbyterian *Book of Praise*, produced in defiance of submarines and other obstacles in 1917. The editor, the Rev. Alexander Macmillan, carried the manuscript across the Atlantic in small packets sewn into his clothes.

§ 3. *The Press in Australasia*

THIS part of the business was first developed by visits regularly made from London by Mr. E. R. Bartholomew, who in 1908 became manager of the Branch then established at Cathedral Buildings, Melbourne. Australia is not only many thousands of miles from the great centres of book-production, but is itself a land of great distances, as yet but sparsely populated; and this creates difficulties for both publishers and booksellers. It is remarkable how far these obstacles have been overcome; and if regard is paid to the number and character of the population, Australia, and New Zealand no less, have a right to be proud of the quantity and quality of the books they buy.

The Branch has paid attention to the special needs of Australian education, and in co-operation with the universities and schools has produced a number of successful text-books.

It acts as agent for some of the leading British publishers, including the houses of Murray, Heinemann, Black, Chapman and Hall, and Mowbray; and for the large publishing business of Messrs. Angus and Robertson of Sydney.

THE MELBOURNE BRANCH

MARKHAM'S BUILDINGS, CAPE TOWN

in which the South African Branch is situated

§ 4. *The Press in South Africa*

THE South African Office of the Press is at Markham's Buildings, Adderley Street, Cape Town. Mr. C. R. Mellor, the present Representative, was appointed to that post in March 1915. From his office at Cape Town Mr. Mellor visits the principal booksellers, not only in the Cape Province, but in the Transvaal, the Orange Free State, and Natal.

§ 5. *The Press in China*

THE Chinese Agency of the Press is at C 445 Honan Road, Shanghai, of which Mr. T. Leslie is the present Representative. The first agent in China for the Press was the Christian Literature Society of Shanghai, the agency being started in 1913. Mr. Leslie, who had been manager of that Society, took over the Press agency in 1917. Stocks of all Oxford books likely to be in demand in China are held in Shanghai.

§ 6. *The Press in Scandinavia*

FOR many years before the war a traveller from Amen Corner visited the Continent annually, but business in Scandinavia developed so rapidly after the Armistice that it was found desirable to open a Branch, and premises were accordingly secured in Copenhagen, Mr. H. Bohun Beet, the Continental traveller of the Press, being appointed manager. The Branch was opened in August 1920, at St. Kongensgade 40 H, close to the King's Palace. The Branch represents also Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton and the Medici Society.

§ 7. *The Press in the United States*

THE sale of Oxford books in the United States began long before the foundation of the *American Branch*. It is recorded that 'the growth of the business was hindered by the Civil War, but after the restoration of peace it grew rapidly'; and that a landmark in its progress was the publication of editions of the American Book of Common Prayer.

The foundation of the Oxford University Press American Branch, an institution which has made the name of Oxford familiar throughout the Union, was due to the foresight and enterprise of Mr. Henry Frowde. Acting on his advice the Delegates of the Press authorized the formation of a Corporation in the State of New York, and the Branch in 1896 opened premises at 91 Fifth Avenue, under the management of the late Mr. John Armstrong. In the following year Mr. Armstrong added to the Bibles and other books, previously sold by Messrs. Nelson, the Clarendon Press publications, previously sold by the Macmillan Company. The business grew rapidly in Mr. Armstrong's hands, and in 1908 moved 'up town' to the premises it now occupies at 35 West 32nd Street. Mr. Armstrong died in 1915, and was succeeded by Mr. W. W. M'Intosh, one of the original members of the staff.

The main function of the Branch has always been that of keeping the American public acquainted with Oxford books, both sacred and secular, and of supplying the

THIRTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK

The New York Branch is situated in the Central Building on the right

Bible Show Room

Clarendon Press Show Room

SHOW ROOMS AT THE NEW YORK BRANCH

books without avoidable delay. To this end it has been necessary to hold large stocks in New York, and to maintain an expert staff which is in touch with the book-stores and with the universities, the schools, and the book-buying public at large. The Branch has its own catalogues and its own advertisements, and it has been able to make Oxford Bibles and Clarendon Press books known and valued throughout the United States. The Branch, however, is not merely an importer; it has long recognized that many Oxford products are capable of useful adaptation to special American requirements, and that such adaptation is consistent with the preservation of what Americans have themselves called 'the Oxford stamp'. This aspect of the activities of the Press in America is shown by the large number of Bibles which are manufactured ('made' is the American idiom) in the United States—among these the now famous *Scofield* Reference Bible is conspicuous—and also by books written—or at least rewritten—for American requirements. The Branch, in co-operation with American scholars, has produced valuable series of text-books for schools and universities—the *Oxford English Series*, the *Oxford French Series*, and the *Oxford German Series*. Even more important, perhaps, are adaptations of Oxford books of tried merit. Thus the *Oxford Loose-Leaf Surgery* derives from a (British) Oxford original (one of the *Oxford Medical Publications*), but has important differences in substance as well as in its novel form. This very successful work is now being followed by the *Oxford Loose-Leaf Medicine*, edited by Dr. Henry Christian and Sir James Mackenzie with the help of leading physicians on both sides of the Atlantic. To promote co-operation of this kind in medical science was a great part of the

life-work of William Osler, who, as Regius Professor at Oxford, and a leading promoter of the Oxford Medical Publications, may be described as the founder of the medical activities of the Oxford Press as they are now carried on in Oxford, in London, in New York, and in Toronto.

Another work of adaptation, now in progress, illustrates further the possibilities of Anglo-American co-operation. The *Concise Oxford Dictionary* of current English, adapted from the great Oxford Dictionary, has been and is very widely used throughout the British Empire and by students of English in foreign countries. But its spelling, and certain other features, were found to disqualify the book for general use in the United States; and a special American edition is now in preparation, the adapter of which is Mr. G. Van Santvoord, of Oriel College, Oxford, and Yale University.

The Press is publisher, on both sides of the Atlantic, to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, many of whose books have been printed at Oxford. Special mention may be made of the first volumes, printed at the Press and recently published, of the British Section of the great *Economic and Social History of the World War* undertaken by the Endowment. These volumes are by Professors Keith and Bowley and Mr. J. A. Salter.

IV

OXFORD BOOKS

§ 1. *Oxford Series*

T one time Oxford books were produced almost always at the instance of an author; and many Oxford books are still so produced. A scholar having devoted, it may be, many years of his life to a subject which he has made his own, applies to the University Press for publication of his researches; and such a claim is often admitted as irresistible. In modern times, however, the need for organization by the publisher has become increasingly apparent. Many books which if published in isolation would reach only a small public are found capable of a wider usefulness when issued as part of a larger plan; and thus the initiative in publishing passes more and more into the hands of the professional commanding the advice of a body of experts. School-books, reprints

of the Classics, text-books of the applied sciences, and books of the nature of Dictionaries and Encyclopaedias are now almost always conducted in this way by co-operative enterprise.

The number of such homogeneous series promoted by the Press during the last twenty years is large, even if all school-books are excluded. The *Oxford English Dictionary* (which is of earlier origin) bulks so large in the public eye as somewhat to obscure all humbler enterprises; but it does not stand alone. In English literature the Press has built up in a quarter of a century a whole library of uniform series, all of respectable dimensions. The *Oxford English Texts* are library editions of famous authors edited after exhaustive examination of the materials, in print and in manuscript, and handsomely printed from type; the *Tudor and Stuart Library* consists of first editions and exact reprints of famous books of that period, printed in the types of the period on paper calculated to last for many centuries more; these books are now finding their way into the second-hand catalogues and the collections of connoisseurs; the *Oxford Library of Prose and Poetry* is a series of little books for fanciers, offering especially the classics of the Romantic Revival in a form approximating to that of the originals; the *Oxford Poets* claim to be the last word for accuracy of text, condensed yet fine printing, and the lowest price compatible with these qualities; the *Oxford Standard Authors* offer the same texts as the Oxford Poets, together with many prose classics, in a cheaper form; the average volume containing nearly 600 pages of close yet legible print. Finally, the *World's Classics* furnish a collection of over two hundred of the most famous English books in a very handy form, still maintained in print as far as possible in spite of the costs

of production, which make it increasingly difficult to keep any but the most popular books on sale in a cheap series.

None of these series has been created by the simple expedient of taking an existing edition and sending it to the printer—a plan too commonly followed, as is well known to every one who has ever investigated the text of a well-known author, and has found that each edition contains almost all the errors of its predecessors and adds fresh errors of its own. The Oxford texts are the result of the laborious co-operation of editor, publisher, and printer, involving the choice of the most authoritative original—very often the collation of a number of printed originals and sometimes of manuscripts as well—expert attention to the problems both editorial and typographical of which the successful solution produces a well-designed book, and finally scrupulous diligence in the elimination of error. The substantial accuracy of Oxford texts is widely recognized, and is known to be due to the united vigilance of the editors, the publishers (themselves scholars and sometimes editors), and the printers. It is less well known how complex and difficult are the problems which the modern editor has to solve. The scientific editing of English texts is indeed a relatively recent growth, and depends upon the application of principles which in the field of Greek and Latin textual criticism have been elaborated in the course of centuries. It is thus no accident that the work done in English editing in the last five-and-twenty years has been largely in the hands of scholars trained in the Oxford school of *Literae Humaniores*, and has synchronized with the production of the *Scriptorum Classicorum Bibliotheca Oxoniensis*.

This series, now popularly known as the *Oxford Classical Texts*, is the only large series of critical texts of Greek

and Latin authors produced in recent times outside Germany and able to hold its own in competition with its great German rivals. The texts, which now fill nearly eighty volumes and include the most important writers of the 'classical' periods of Greek and Roman literature, have been based upon much fresh examination of the manuscript originals. Some of the editors, indeed, have devoted years to this kind of investigation; the labours of Mr. Allen on the manuscripts of Homer and of Professor Clark and Sir William Peterson on those of Cicero have secured for their authors a permanent place in the long history of classical scholarship.

The aim of the series is to give the best text which the examination of the manuscripts in their relation to each other affords, and to provide in a brief *apparatus criticus* sufficient information to show the evidence on which the editor has based his decision. Conjectural emendations are mentioned in the notes when they are considered plausible, but are not admitted to the text except where they reach a high degree of probability. This principle, which is mainly due to the authority of the late Ingram Bywater, has commended itself in the course of years even to those who were at first disposed to think it too austere, and has greatly enhanced the permanent value of the series, which before the war was finding its way into Germany itself. A famous German publisher went so far indeed as to address to Oxford (on the eve of the war) a letter of remonstrance on the price of the series, which was described as too low for its value.

The *Oxford Library of Translations* consists mainly of prose versions of Greek and Latin authors. These have not been made to order or in accordance with any single

principle of translation, but have been produced at the instance of scholars unable to deny themselves the satisfaction of translating a favourite author. This, which is perhaps the best guarantee of excellence, accounts for the miscellaneous constitution of the series, which has been enlarged by degrees as a happy conjunction of author and translator chanced to present itself, and from the same cause admits some interesting authors seldom or never included in series of translations made upon a less elastic plan.

Another series of translations is the great collection of the *Sacred Books of the East*, which was begun many years ago by the late Max Müller and reached its fiftieth and concluding volume in 1910. The value of these translations to Orientalists is shown by the steady sale, which after forty years is still increasing, and by the high prices asked for the few volumes which are now unfortunately out of print.

History, and the subjects akin thereto, afford less scope for homogeneous series than does the editing of ancient and modern classical literature; and it has been the policy of the Press rather to secure monographs of unique authority in special fields than to compile works of encyclopaedic information. A few examples will serve to illustrate the range and importance of the Oxford books produced in this way which have become classics in their subject: in the History of Antiquity, Sir Arthur Evans's *Scripta Minoa*, Sir Edward Maunde Thompson's *Palaeography*, Vincent Smith's *Early History of India*; in the Fine Arts, Barclay Head's *Historia Numorum*, Vincent Smith's *Fine Art in India*, Dalton's *Byzantine Art*; in Constitutional History and Law, Anson's *Law and Custom of the Constitution* and *Law of Contract*, Sir Courtenay Ilbert's *Government of India*, Lord Bryce's *Studies in History and Jurisprudence*,

Hall's *International Law*, Prof. Keith's *Responsible Government*, Sir Erskine Holland's *Jurisprudence*; in British History, Stubbs's *Constitutional History of England*, Freeman's *Norman Conquest*, Sir Paul Vinogradoff's *Villainage in England* and *English Society in the Eleventh Century*, Sir Charles Oman's *Peninsular War*; in European History, Finlay's *Greece*, Hodgkin's *Italy and Her Invaders*; in Geography, Prof. Beazley's *Dawn of Modern Geography* and Mr. R. L. Poole's great *Historical Atlas*.

Books of this kind best represent the type at which Oxford has aimed in the historical and human sciences, and it is to the promotion of such works that the resources of the Press have in this field been most advantageously applied. When, however, the progress of a subject and the enthusiasm of an editor have combined to suggest another way, the opportunity has been taken of organizing research upon a common plan. Notable results of such combined endeavour are the *Oxford Survey of the British Empire* and the *Historical Geography of the Dominions* promoted by the late Prof. Herbertson and by Sir Charles Lucas of the Colonial Office respectively. The former work, containing in six volumes a general and a particular survey of the geographical, economic, and administrative aspects of the Empire and its constituent parts, was completed within a short time and published within a few weeks of the outbreak of the war. In an important sense therefore it cannot become out of date, since it affords a conspectus of conditions as they existed at the culmination of the former age, to which it will always be necessary to refer as a standard of comparison. The other series, which is in seven volumes (comprising twice as many separate parts), has had a longer and more chequered history, the march of events since the early

Shakespeare's England

An Account of the
Life & Manners
of his Age

Volume
I

Clarendon Press Oxford
In the Tercentenary Year
1916

years of the century, when publication began, having made necessary frequent revision and reconstitution. The work is still in progress, and India has recently been added to its scope.

A more recent collection arose out of the demand during the war for a compendious survey of the history of the belligerent powers. To satisfy the demand was one of the pieces of war work undertaken by the Press, and the evident usefulness of the volumes having survived the war has led to the establishment of a series on a permanent and wider plan, including Histories of the Nations and treatises of similar scope on leading questions of International politics. The series now covers France, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, the Balkans, Serbia, Russia, Prussia, China, and Japan, with books on the Eastern Question, Diplomacy, Nineteenth-Century Treaties, and other topics. Many of the volumes have been frequently reprinted, and additions are in preparation.

Not the least interesting of Oxford books written by a number of contributors on a uniform plan is *Shakespeare's England, an Account of the Life and Manners of his Age*, published in two volumes in the centenary year 1916. The book contains an Ode by the Poet Laureate, a long essay on the Age of Elizabeth by Sir Walter Raleigh, and some forty special articles by the first authorities.

Another co-operative enterprise is the *Oxford History of Music*, which in six volumes surveys the whole subject from the beginning to the time of Wagner; it is not a collection of biographies, but a history of music as such—of origins, tendencies, and evolution. The authors include the late H. E. Wooldridge, the late Sir Hubert Parry, and Sir Henry Hadow, whose enlightened enthusiasm has done so much for the study of music in England.

§ 2. *Oxford Books on the Empire*

OXFORD is proud to consider itself as *par excellence* the Imperial University. The administration of the Empire owes much to Oxford men, as the University in its turn owes much to her sons from overseas. Imperial subjects are an important and growing branch of study at Oxford; and the Press, true to its tradition of building upon the foundations of experience, has in time put together an imposing collection as well of the classics of colonization and administration as of new and original treatises by scholars versed in its theory and practice. These books being very diverse have not been confined within the limits of a series uniform in size or appearance; but they have a real unity, and deserve it is believed to be acquired as a whole by every library with any pretensions to an imperial character. Among the most important volumes may be enumerated Wakefield's *View of the Art of Colonization*, first published in 1849, Lord Durham's *Report on British North America*, Cornewall Lewis's *Government of Dependencies*; and (among modern treatises) Prof. Keith's *Responsible Government* (in its present form published as recently as 1912, yet already an established classic), and the same author's *Imperial Unity*, Prof. Egerton's *Federations and Unions*, Sir Courtenay Ilbert's *Government of India*.

The Press is so strong in books on *India* that it has seemed well to issue a special catalogue bringing together a mass of books which in the General Catalogue are listed under a variety of subject-headings. These include

a large and important section published by the Press under the patronage of the Secretary of State—notably the *Imperial Gazetteer of India* in twenty-six volumes, the noble series of documents on the early history of 'John Company' compiled at the India Office, and the sumptuous publication of Sir Aurel Stein's discoveries in Turkestan; but they include also a whole library of books produced by the Press at its sole charges and dealing with the history of India from the Empire of Asoka to the formulation of Dyarchy, with the geography, politics, and economics of modern India, and with the religion and literature, the fine art, and the music of Hindostan. The production by the Press in India itself of vernacular and other educational books has recently made great progress. (See also p. 65 for some notice of the series of *Classics of Indian History*.)

§ 3. *The Oxford Standard*

THE standard of scholarship, accuracy, and literary excellence which the Delegates maintain in the books published under their authority is believed to be as high as that attempted by any other publisher in the world. Its maintenance imposes upon the Delegates much labour and expense; but the effort is repaid in the reputation which Oxford books enjoy in the public estimation. The supervision exercised by the Delegates, both personally and through their advisers, is not limited to the initial judgement passed upon a book offered to them for publication; it extends through the whole process of revision in manuscript and in proof. When a book is favourably considered, an expert's detailed report is very often laid before the author, who is asked to consider the suggestions made and to confer with the Delegates' advisers; and this process of scrutiny is frequently far-reaching, the criticism being invited at one stage or another of a number of specialists in various fields. In this way many, perhaps most, of the books produced by the Press have received substantial improvement; and not a few have undergone something like transformation. To these benefits abundant testimony is borne in the prefaces of authors; more, perhaps, reposes in the archives in Walton Street.

The technical services rendered to scholarship by the Clarendon Press proof-readers are likewise commemorated in many a preface. The late Mr. J. C. Pembrey, who in

1847 read Wilson's *Sanskrit Grammar*, and in 1916 read Prof. Macdonell's *Vedic Grammar* for press, was well known to three generations of Oriental scholars; the late Mr. W. F. R. Shilleto did much to secure accuracy and uniformity in the series of *Oxford Classical Texts*; and Mr. George Ostler has left the marks of his vigilance upon many editions of the English classics. Long training in a severe school develops unusual powers; and authors are sometimes startled by instances of what seems beyond natural acumen. An author who had misquoted *Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis* in the usual form, was naturally astonished when the reader inquired in the margin 'Should it not be *et nos*?', which is of course unmetrical. The reader was right, nevertheless; but the source of his information remained obscure. In fields less recondite than this the authority of the readers is generally recognized; many editors have confessed that in the matter of Greek accents they should not think of disputing it.

The attention thus paid to the claims of scholarship and accuracy brings doubtless unmixed benefits to learning and education. To the Press as a business concern the blessing is less unequivocal. The Delegates' resources are not without limits; and they are sometimes embarrassed by the ambitions of learned authors from all parts of the world, to whom nothing but the imprint of the Clarendon Press seems an adequate reward. They are obliged to pick and choose, and sometimes to decline a proposal which would attract them if it had fewer rivals. Another imputation is less deserved. A distinguished American who had been invited to dine in an Oxford College confessed afterwards that as he entered the room his knees knocked at the thought that 'all

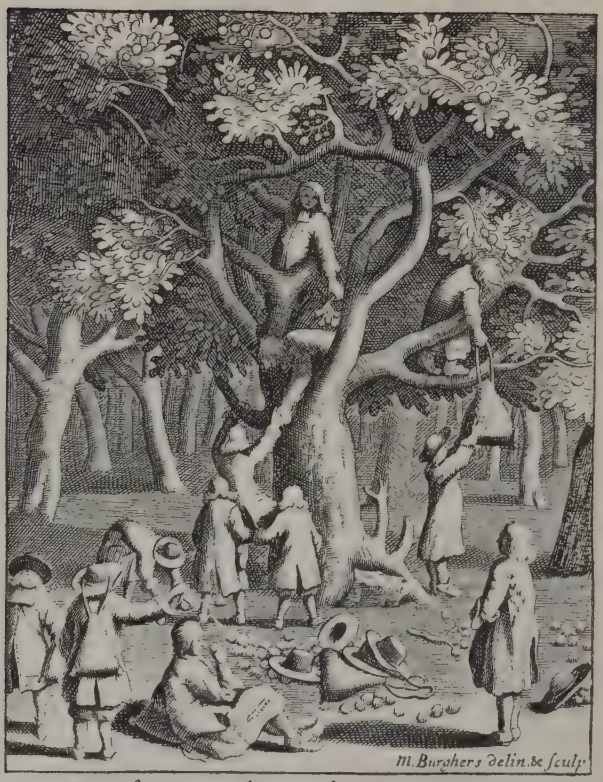
these Fellows talked Latin'; and the public is sometimes frightened away from an Oxford book by the apprehension that it will be found full of Greek quotations. There is in fact no necessary connexion between accuracy and pedantry; and even Dons are often men of the world, well acquainted with the limitations of the average intelligence. No one need be afraid that an Oxford book on any ordinary subject will be any more abstruse than another book, though its facts will perhaps be better authenticated and its arguments more closely reasoned. The booksellers know this; and in reply to a customer's inquiry 'Is this a good book?' have been heard to reply 'Why it's an Oxford book'.

Another fallacy which dies hard is that Oxford books are dear. This is perhaps no more than a hasty inference from the fact that Oxford produces an exceptionally large proportion of books which from their nature cannot be cheap. No one would expect to buy Liddell and Scott's Greek Lexicon, or the *Index Kewensis*, for a few shillings; but these books and many like them are really inexpensive, if regard is paid to the number of words they contain. The Oxford Dictionary itself is sold at an almost nominal price. Many of the books, however, which appeal to a narrow public are properly priced higher than if they could be sold in large numbers; for the price of a book depends mainly upon two things —the number of words it contains and the number of people who will buy it. The art of publishing lies in nothing so much as in estimating whether a book is more likely to sell say, 750 copies at 15*s.* or 5,000 at 5*s.* The policy of the Press has always been elastic in this respect; and very many of its books are among the cheapest in their kind.

Specimen of work done by M. Burghers, Engraver to the University about 1700

Clarendon Press, Oxford.

Specimen of work done in the studio of the Clarendon Press to-day



Ecce Puer fructus, ad quos ludi ipse Magister,
Et Pater invitant, & bene notus Amor.

Sæpe ulta est raptos crudelis Betula malos,
Nunc ut devites verbera carpe Puer.
T.W.

From Lily's Latin Grammar, Oxford 1692

THE BUILDING OF THE WALL

One of the drawings by Henry Ford from *A School History of England* by C. R. L. Fletcher and Rudyard Kipling, 1911

§ 4. *Illustrated Books*

THE publication by the Press of beautifully illustrated books is mainly a development of comparatively recent years, and it has been furthered by the progress of collotype printing at Oxford. The catalogue now includes a large number of sumptuous monographs on artistic subjects. In its facsimiles of manuscripts and rare printed books, published on its own account or for the British Museum, the Press has done much to make accessible to scholars the treasures of the great collections. Well-known examples are the magnificent collotype reproduction of the New Testament part of the *Codex Sinaiticus* (from negatives made at St. Petersburg under the old régime; negatives were fortunately made of the Old Testament part as well, and the reproduction of the whole of this most famous of all manuscripts will before long be completed); and the complete collotype reproduction of the Shakespearian corpus, consisting of the Folio of 1623, which went out of print on publication in 1912, and the *Poems and Pericles* from the first editions, still on sale.

The Press has also published very numerous reproductions of works of art of all kinds, partly by way of illustrated catalogues of special collections or *genres* (such as the three folio volumes of Oxford Drawings by the old masters, the numerous coin catalogues, and the cheap collection of British Historical Portraits in half-tone); partly in the form of profusely illustrated monographs, which moreover are all scientific works by experts and not mere collections of pretty pictures with illustrative letterpress.

These works are of great importance to students and collectors, and a select list is appended: Head's *Historia Numorum*, Gardner's *Ancient Coinage*, Beazley's and other books on Greek Vases, Hill's *Renaissance Medals*, Dalton's *Byzantine Art*, Maunde Thompson's *Palaeography*, Murray's *History of Chess*, ffoulkes's *Armour and Weapons*, Rivoira's *Moslem Architecture*, Vincent Smith's *Fine Art in India*, Sir Aurel Stein's *Khotan* and *Serindia* and other special works on Eastern Art, the important series of monographs on English Church Art written or edited by the late Francis Bond, with his comprehensive *Introduction to English Church Architecture* in two volumes, and many more too numerous to cite, particularly the great wealth of British Museum catalogues. A very welcome recent accession to the catalogue is supplied by the sumptuous monographs on Italian Masters produced by the Harvard and Princeton University Presses.

The use of illustration is, however, by no means confined to facsimiles and works on the arts. The modern productions of the Press have made an increasing use of illustration both as an embellishment and as a medium of information. School-books in particular are now lavishly illustrated with portraits, maps, diagrams, and other reproductions, often either of modern photographs or of old cuts and engravings carefully chosen, so that the actual men and things of former times may be faithfully mirrored.

The Press prints for the British Museum and other London collections, as well as for the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, very large numbers of postcards in collotype, by means of which a knowledge of our national art treasures is being widely spread.

§ 5. *Official Publications*

THE Press prints for the official purposes of the University the *University Gazette* (recording the official Acts and Agenda of the University), the annual *Calendar* (primarily a list of the members of the University), the *Statuta Universitatis* and the *Examination Statutes* (both published every year), and a number of smaller pamphlets &c. giving special information. The numerous and far-reaching changes, made necessary by the war and the fruits of the war, have hitherto precluded the republication of the useful and popular *Oxford University Handbook*, last published in 1915. Meanwhile, the pamphlet of *General Information* (on admission, residence, scholarships, and some examinations) will be found valuable by those, at home and abroad, who wish to form a general conception of the opportunities afforded to students and the requirements which they must fulfil.

There are many other official books, both utilitarian and antiquarian. Employers and others have often occasion to inquire what places a member of the University obtained in the class-lists. The information, not always available elsewhere, is given, from the beginning to 1900, in the *Historical Register of the University*, and for the years 1901–20, in the *Supplement* to that work recently published. Benefactors and others interested in University Finance are directed to the *Abstract of the Accounts of the University and Colleges* published annually. Other publications of local usefulness include the *Oxford*

University Pocket Diary for the academical year, and the terminal list of all *Resident Members of the University* (with addresses, telephone numbers, &c.).

The University twice during the war printed its *Roll of Service*, and in 1920 published the third and definitive edition: it contains the names, fourteen thousand five hundred and sixty-one in number, of those members of the University who served in the Military and Naval forces of the Crown. The names of those who gave their lives, two thousand four hundred and seventy-four in number, are distinguished by heavy type.

The Oxford University Almanack has been printed annually since 1674, and of the illustrations since 1716 the Press possesses the original plates. By far the greater number are still on sale. Many of the recent plates are of great interest and beauty; those for 1906–10, and that for 1918, are collotypes from drawings made for the Almanack by Mr. Muirhead Bone; most of the later issues are chromo-collotypes reproducing water-colour drawings, preserved at Oxford, by J. M. W. Turner and other artists of his time.

The historical books dealing with Oxford and published by the Press include Mr. Madan's *Oxford Books*, '1468'–1650, a work much esteemed by bibliographers; Mr. Shadwell's *Enactments in Parliament* (concerning Oxford, Cambridge, Winchester, Eton, and Westminster); Mrs. Poole's three volumes (one is out of print) of illustrated catalogues of Oxford Portraits (all these published for, or in co-operation with, the Oxford Historical Society); and, in a lighter vein, Mr. Lamborn's popular *Story of Architecture in Oxford Stone* and handy guides, written by experts, to the Bodleian, other Oxford Libraries, the Ashmolean Museum, the University Museum (of Natural

Science), and the picturesque Degree Ceremony (by the Warden of Wadham). The Press offers also a *History of Oxford Rowing*, and the collected *Orationes* of the late Public Orator, Dr. W. W. Merry, perhaps the only man of modern times who could make a Latin speech intelligible to an audience of undergraduates and ladies.

Lord Curzon's work on *University Reform* published in 1909 is still on sale.

§ 6. *The Oxford English Dictionary*

THE work described on its title-page as *A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles*, and long known familiarly as *N.E.D.* or *Murray's Dictionary*, but now generally as the *Oxford Dictionary*, has a continuous history of more than half a century. It was in 1857 that Dean Trench (afterwards Archbishop Trench) laid the foundation of the work by calling the attention of the Philological Society to the inadequacy of all existing English Dictionaries. He pointed out that thousands of words which had become obsolete, but remained in the national literature, had either escaped the diligence of lexicographers or had been excluded by the limitations of their plan; and in especial that no dictionary gave any account of the *history* of words and their senses; in none was it ascertained when a word was first used, when (if obsolete) it had last been used, and how its senses had been developed.

The members of the Philological Society threw themselves eagerly into the plan proposed for supplying these deficiencies, and an army of volunteers set about the systematic examination of the whole body of English literature. At length a dictionary was projected (in place of the supplement first suggested, which it was realized would be much larger than the works it was designed to supplement), and Mr. Herbert Coleridge was appointed editor. Fresh volunteers were enlisted, and the work made progress. But it could

hardly have taken shape without the tireless industry and indomitable courage of the next editor, Dr. Furnivall, who saw, but did not shrink from, the immense preparatory labours yet to be faced. Furnivall realized that an English Dictionary could not be made until the roots of the language could be examined in the mass of our early literature, which was then hardly known; and to provide this essential he founded in 1864 the *Early English Text Society*—the long list of whose publications, still growing, may be read in the Clarendon Press Catalogue.

But even the enthusiasm of a Furnivall did not avail to prevent a growing sense of despondency, when the work seemed to lengthen out indefinitely with no promise of performance. No private publisher could be found to undertake a work so vast. It was decided to invite the co-operation of the Clarendon Press. The Philological Society and Dr. James Murray, who had thrown himself into the work with an energy equal to Furnivall's own, and was by acclamation designated as editor, entered into negotiations with the Delegates of the Press, and an agreement was signed.

It is fortunate that the magnitude of human undertakings is seldom perceived by those who engage upon them. Coleridge had intimated that it would be time to begin the Dictionary when a hundred thousand quotations had been pigeon-holed. The efforts of Furnivall and Murray brought the total to three and a half million quotations, selected by thirteen hundred readers from the works of five thousand authors. The work of accumulation has gone on for forty years since, and to-day the Dictionary contains about one and three-quarter million *printed* quotations, selected from a greatly larger number.

Dr. Murray himself agreed with the Delegates for a work of between 6,000 and 7,000 pages. The total will exceed 15,000. He expected to complete the book in ten years with a small staff. To-day, thirty-five years after printing began, the work, to which Murray himself contributed more than 7,000 pages, is being carried on by three editors with twelve assistants; and the end is not yet.

It is impossible to value too highly the services of voluntary helpers from the beginning to the present day. The completeness and accuracy of the work, which is probably without a rival in any country or in any age, could not have been secured except by editors of the greatest learning and ability and by the training of a lifetime; but these qualities would not have availed if the work had not been founded upon inductive investigations of a range never before attempted. For the wealth of the materials made available our gratitude is due to readers not only in the United Kingdom but in all parts of the world, and notably in the United States of America, where the Dictionary is regarded with affectionate admiration as the common achievement of the English-speaking people.

Valuable, however, as the work of these voluntary helpers has been, an even larger debt of gratitude is due to the faithful labours of the editorial staff of assistants, some of whom can trace back their term of service to the earliest years of the undertaking. To their acumen, vigilance, and zeal have been and are due in large measure the completeness of the evidence and the correctness of detail in the presentation of words and their meanings.

Dr. Murray with his staff moved to Oxford in 1885, and there the work has been continuously carried on,

partly in the *Scriptorium* attached to Dr. Murray's house, partly (and in recent years wholly) in the *Old Ashmolean Building*, next door to the old Sheldonian Press and within a stone's throw of the Bodleian. Here, as a section of the alphabet comes to be treated, the material is sifted, extracts from it are put in order, fresh investigations, often laborious, are undertaken to settle etymologies and doubtful points in the history of a word; copy is prepared for the printer, and references are checked. The complete preparation of the material involves researches of the most varied nature, some of which lead the editors even beyond the confines of our own language to novel and important discoveries.

The scope of the Dictionary, in the form which it finally assumed, is thus stated in the preface to Volume I:—'The aim of this dictionary is to furnish an adequate account of the meaning, origin, and history of English words now in general use, or known to have been in use at any time during the last seven hundred years. It endeavours (1) to show, with regard to each individual word, when, how, in what shape, and with what signification, it became English; what development of form and meaning it has since received; which of its uses have, in the course of time, become obsolete, and which still survive; what new uses have since arisen, by what processes, and when: (2) to illustrate these facts by a series of quotations ranging from the first known occurrence of the word to the latest, or down to the present day; the word being thus made to exhibit its own history and meaning: and (3) to treat the etymology of each word strictly on the basis of historical fact, and in accordance with the methods and results of modern philological science.'

As the history of many English words begins with

GATEWAY OF THE OLD ASHMOLEAN

the Anglo-Saxon period, and the 'first known occurrence' may be as early as the seventh century, the period actually covered by hundreds of the articles in the Dictionary is one of ten, eleven, or twelve centuries.

The extent to which the aim of the Dictionary has been accomplished is not yet so widely known as it ought to be. Many discussions as to the origin, history, and meaning of words are carried on in newspapers and periodicals which could be decided at once by a reference to the Dictionary. Inquirers spend much of their own and others' time, and in the end write to one of the editors, in quest of information which has for years been available in the published volumes. Nor is it solely the student of language who can profit by the use of the Dictionary, although in this respect it is of unique value both for English and Continental philologists. Every scholar and scientist is likely to find in it some fresh light upon his own subject, for many special points in the history and terminology of the various sciences have for the first time been elucidated in its pages.

The reputation, however, of the Dictionary is now so widely spread that it would be superfluous to call witnesses to its unique qualities and its profound usefulness. In the legislature and in the law courts, as well as in the library and the market place, its ruling on the meanings and use of words is accepted as final. Nor is the range of the work limited in this respect to the usage of the United Kingdom; it embraces all forms of the language sanctioned as standard by literary use, wherever English is spoken and written.

For these and other reasons no proper comparison can be made with any other English dictionary; but the magnitude of the result may none the less be gauged by

means of these. Taking one of the ten volumes as a basis of comparison, the seventh, comprising words beginning with O and P, has nearly 49,000 words (of which over 5,000 are obsolete and nearly 2,000 are naturalized aliens). No other English dictionary has more than 27,000 words beginning with O and P. When comparison is made of the number of illustrative quotations, the difference is overwhelming; Vol. VII has 175,000 quotations, and no other dictionary has much more than 20,000 for the same sections of the alphabet.

If it is thought that, great as the work is, it has taken an inordinate time to produce, comfort may be taken from the fate of comparable enterprises abroad. The great *Deutsches Wörterbuch* started by the brothers Grimm in 1838 began to be printed as long ago as 1851, and thus had a start of over thirty years; but though it is only some two-thirds of the scale of the Oxford book, there still after sixty-seven years remains about a sixth to do. The Dutch *Woordenboek* is less advanced, and the dictionary of the Swedish Academy has not passed the letter D.

The state of the work to-day is that of the ten volumes nine are published, and of the tenth (Ti–Z) substantial parts are complete, namely Ti–Ty, and V, X Y Z, and the first sections of U and W. The end, however, is not so near as might be thought; U is a large section, and W is in many respects the most difficult letter in the alphabet, consisting as it does almost entirely of words of Teutonic origin, and therefore of obscure etymology and complicated history. A lexicographer makes light work of *parallelepiped* and *supralapsarian*; it is when he comes to words like *wealth* and *work*, *war* and *waste*,

wild and *wilful*, that his powers of discovery and of discrimination are seriously taxed.

Sir James Murray (he was knighted in 1908) died 26 July 1915. His ambition to see the completion of the work on his eightieth birthday in 1917 was not fulfilled, and even if he had lived to devote to it his amazing powers of application, could not have been fulfilled. He lived, however, to see the end of his life-work in sight, and more than that of any other man his name will be associated with the long and efficient working of the great engine of research. The volumes produced by him have characteristic excellences which cannot be exactly matched, though they may be rivalled by merits of another kind.

The work is now carried on by three editors, working independently on different sections of the alphabet. Dr. Henry Bradley, whose period of work on the Dictionary now rivals Murray's in point of time, is by common consent the greatest of living English philologists. He has been an editor since 1888. Professor W. A. Craigie, who has been an editor since 1901, and Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon since 1916, brings to the work of the Dictionary a rare combination of qualifications. He is especially eminent as a Scandinavian scholar. Mr. C. T. Onions, appointed an editor in 1913, has been on the staff since 1895. He is also known to scholars as the author of the *Oxford Shakespeare Glossary* and for his editorial part in *Shakespeare's England*.

The London Goldsmiths' Company contributed £5,000 towards the cost of the sixth volume of the Dictionary, the title-page of which records their generous support. Apart from this the whole of the editorial and manu-

facturing cost of the work has been borne by the Delegates of the Press, who have defrayed from their general revenues a heavy annual outlay for many years. This has necessarily risen since the war, and it is fortunate that so large a part of the work had been completed under conditions less onerous than now obtain.

The price of the Dictionary has been kept very low, the sections being published at the rate of *2s. 6d.* for sixty-four pages or less than a halfpenny per page containing on an average over 300 lines of type and nearly 3,000 words. Few books have ever been sold at so low a rate. The prices of volumes and half volumes stoutly bound in leather have necessarily been advanced in recent years to meet the enhanced cost of manufacturing; but the price of the Dictionary is still no more than nominal, if regard is paid to the outlay precedent to the actual manufacture of the books. Sections in paper wrappers, issued after 1920, will be priced at the rate of *5s.* for sixty-four pages; but it is not proposed to raise the price of the bulk of the work in this form.

The London *Times* in 1897 described the Dictionary as 'the greatest effort which any University, it may be any printing press, has taken in hand since the invention of printing. . . . It will be not the least of the glories of the University of Oxford to have completed this gigantic task'.

Lord Curzon in his *Letter to the University* of 1909 wrote: 'In the staff of the English Dictionary alone the Press contributes to the University what is probably the largest single engine of Research working anywhere at the present time.'

§ 7. *Dictionary of National Biography*

THIS, the largest of all national collections of biography, owes its existence to the enterprise and munificence of the late GEORGE SMITH, who founded it in 1882. The work was produced by the co-operation of a large number of scholars acting under the direction of the late Sir LESLIE STEPHEN, with whom was afterwards associated Mr. Sidney Lee; and the latter half of the work was produced under Sir SIDNEY LEE's sole editorship.

It was produced in sixty-three quarterly volumes, 1885–1900, the arrangement being alphabetical; and the lives of those who died too late to be admitted in their alphabetical place were included by the issue of three supplementary volumes, which brought the work down to the death of Queen Victoria and just past the close of the nineteenth century. The sixty-six volumes were later reissued, with corrections, on thinner paper, three volumes being converted into one; and this edition in twenty-two volumes constitutes the main dictionary from the earliest times to the close of the Victorian era, in the form now on sale. It contains, in rather more than 30,000 pages, some 30,000 lives, each equipped with a select bibliography. The roll of contributors includes many famous names; conspicuous among the articles are those of Sir Leslie Stephen himself, which are models of form and substance, and those of the present Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, Dr. C. H. Firth, whose Life of Cromwell is an acknowledged classic.

Continuing the work of the founder, Mrs. George Smith undertook a Supplement covering the years 1901–1911, which was produced by Sir Sidney Lee in 1912–13. This, as the first of a series of twentieth-century volumes, inaugurated what may be regarded as a second and distinct work.

Further, in 1903 was published in one volume an *Index and Epitome* to the Dictionary, giving within 1,500 pages 30,000 succinct biographies. The value of this compendium, to the very large non-professional public to whom the main work in twenty-two bulky volumes is not readily accessible, need not be emphasized. It has been thought proper, however, to lay stress upon its usefulness as an independent work of reference, which may fairly be expected to take its place, upon thousands of shelves, along with other compendious dictionaries and encyclopaedias; the Index and Epitome, therefore, along with the Index and Epitome to the Supplement of 1901–11, bound with it, is now issued under the short title of *Concise Dictionary of National Biography*.

The Dictionary of National Biography, with the responsibility for its maintenance, was offered to the University of Oxford in 1917 and gratefully accepted. Work is now in progress on a further decennial supplement covering the years 1912–21. This supplement will be edited by Mr. H. W. Carless Davis of Balliol and Mr. J. R. H. Weaver of Trinity. The Supplement of 1901–11, the *Concise Dictionary*, and many volumes of the main work, have recently been reprinted from plates; and the sale of the work shows an improvement when compared with the years preceding the war. Whether it will in the future be found practicable to attempt the systematic revision of the main work must

still remain in doubt. The manufacturing expense of a new edition would be very heavy, and could be justified only by searching investigations, leading to a very substantial gain in accuracy, which must occupy years and involve a further heavy expenditure. The total outlay required has been estimated at £100,000, and this perhaps could not be defrayed without the munificence of a second founder. It may, however, be hoped that such a work will not at last languish for lack of funds. Meanwhile, under the direction of Mr. H. W. Carless Davis, the Delegates' adviser upon the Dictionary, preliminary work is being steadily carried on. Subject-indexes have been prepared; a bibliography is in hand of the biographical literature which has accumulated since the publication of the Dictionary; and various special investigations are being made into periods for which the work is especially in need of revision. When it is remembered that a whole army of scholars was continually at work upon the material of the *New English Dictionary* for more than a quarter of a century before the first page was sent to press, it will be seen that the material of the *Dictionary of National Biography* may have to be newly surveyed with something of the same elaboration, if that Dictionary is ever to be rebuilt from its foundations.

§ 8. *The Oxford Medical Publications*

IN the year 1907 a Joint Committee was formed between the Oxford University Press and Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, under the Directorship of Mr. Humphrey Sumner Milford and Sir Ernest Hodder Williams, which had for its object the production of Medical, Surgical, and Scientific books, under the general title of the 'Oxford Medical Publications'.

The Committee were peculiarly fortunate in having the invaluable advice and assistance, in the choice of Authors and Subjects, of the late Sir William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine in the University of Oxford, and a Delegate of the Press.

The key-note of the Oxford Medical Publications has always been the practical character of the treatment. The popular Medical Manuals, Monographs, and the 'General Practitioner Series' have now a world-wide reputation, and include a large number of standard works, such as *Diseases of the Heart*, and *Principles of Diagnosis and Treatment in Heart Affections* by Sir James Mackenzie, *A System of Operative Surgery* by F. F. Burghard, C.B., *Common Disorders and Diseases of Childhood* by G. F. Still, *Practical Obstetrics* by Professor E. Hastings Tweedy, *Guide to Gynaecology in General Practice* by Comyns Berkeley and Victor Bonney, *The Practitioner's Encyclopaedia of Medical Treatment*, *The Practitioner's Encyclopaedia of Medicine and Surgery*.

By the acquisition in 1908 of Mr. Young J. Pentland's business, leading Text-books by the most eminent Scottish authors were incorporated, including such well-known books as Cunningham's *Text-book of Anatomy* and *Manual of Practical Anatomy*, Muir and Ritchie's *Manual of Bacteriology*, Thomson and Miles's *Manual of Surgery*, Waring's *Manual of Operative Surgery*, Thomson's *Outlines of Zoology*.

The Oxford Medical Publications were awarded the Grand Prix at the seventeenth International Congress of Medicine held in London in 1913. This award was bestowed for the general excellence of the Students' books produced in the Series, and for the production of new and original work therein.

In 1916 the Committee sustained a great loss in the death of their Editor, James Keogh Murphy. A further heavy loss was sustained at the end of 1919 by the death of Sir William Osler, whose advice and assistance had always been of inestimable value. After the death of Mr. Murphy, the Editorship was temporarily undertaken by Lieut.-Colonel Sir D'Arcy Power, who was responsible for several important additions to the Series, including the well-known *Oxford War Primers of Medicine and Surgery*. Towards the close of hostilities Captain Robert McNair Wilson, M.B., Ch.B., late Assistant to Sir James Mackenzie under the Medical Research Committee, became Editor, and under his direction further important additions have been made, including *Menders of the Maimed* by Professor Arthur Keith, *Studies in Neurology* by Henry Head, *Operative Treatment of Chronic Intestinal Stasis* by Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, *Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Diseases in General Practice* by Brevet-Colonel L. W. Harrison, D.S.O., *Plastic Surgery of the Face* by Major

H. D. Gillies, C.B.E., R.A.M.C., *War Neuroses and Shell Shock* by Sir Frederick Mott, K.B.E., *Trench Fever* by Lieut.-Colonel W. Byam, O.B.E., *Clinical Ophthalmology for the General Practitioner* by A. Maitland Ramsay, and *Tropical Ophthalmology* by Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Elliot, I.M.S. The present Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, Sir Archibald Garrod, is a Delegate of the Press and an Oxford author.

The Oxford Catalogue now devotes many pages to the medical list, and the American Branch, by the publication of the encyclopaedic 'loose-leaf' *Oxford Surgery*, has produced an important and valuable adaptation of a British original. In the *Quarterly Journal of Medicine* the University possesses one of the most valuable scientific journals in the world; and in the other medical publications it administers what is at once a valuable property and a powerful instrument of education. Oxford medical books are known wherever English is spoken.

9. *Oxford Books for Boys and Girls*

THE more recent activities of the Press include a notable enterprise, started by Mr. Henry Frowde jointly with Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, but now carried on by Mr. Milford alone. This was the foundation in 1907 of a new department for the issue of educational works for elementary schools, and of 'gift-books', useful and recreative literature, for young people of all ages. The Oxford Reading Books, which headed the list, set a new literary standard for books of the class; and the series established itself not only in this country but in parts of the Empire so remote and so diverse as Australia and Burma. It was followed by further series of reading books, and of books on history, geography, arithmetic, nature study, and other subjects of the elementary curriculum. The part taken by the Press in the educational system of the English-speaking world may now be said to comprehend the whole scholastic field from the infant school upwards.

Concurrently with the school publications, the J. Department, as it is known for convenience, has issued from Falcon Square a great variety of books for the leisure hours of boys and girls. These include finely illustrated editions of classics, such as *Robinson Crusoe*, Grimm's *Tales*, Kingsley's *Water Babies*, *Alice in Wonderland*; books on nature, science, industry, imperial history; miscellanies both instructive and entertaining; stories for boys, girls, and young children; and for the very youngest, picture books of all kinds.

All these publications are edited with care, and both on the literary and on the artistic side a high level of excellence is aimed at. Some two million copies of the books are distributed during the year.

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The Fell Ornaments on pp. 33, 36, 38, 40, &c., are those used in Sir Thomas Hanmer's edition of Shakespeare, published in 1744.

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Vad. Boum vet.
1. Ofneia Septentrionalis, sive Locus Regalis, vulgo Rowly
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3. Ofneia Australis.
Veneunt apud Editorem.
A.D. MDCCXVI